



MASSIVE HAUL OF ILLEGAL TOBACCO

Report by Jamie Brassington

MORE than 100,000 illegal cigarettes and hundreds of packets of tobacco were seized during one year in Dudley and Sandwell

The number of illegal tobacco products seized in Dudley doubled during 2016/17 – with 78,000 cigarettes and 519 packets of tobacco worth more than £16,000 – when trading standards swooped on shops. In Sandwell, 33,750 cigarettes and 2kg of tobacco were taken off shelves.

Trading standards said the products were either counterfeit – possibly including toxins that pose a risk to health – or had not had tax paid on them, denying the public purse thousands of pounds.

The figures show illegal cigarettes and tobacco being sold in Black Country shops continues to be a major concern.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member responsible for trading standards at Dudley Council, said: “Our trading standards officers are doing some excellent work to clamp down on this issue and, rest assured, anyone selling illegal products could face serious penalties through the courts.”

Suspended

Five business owners have been taken to court, with one which was operating in Sandwell given a suspended prison sentence and 200 hours of unpaid work.

Dudley Council visited 168 premises in total, with the illegal haul of tobacco from April 2016 to March this year coming from a total of 10 premises.

Trading standards are continuing to crack down through a range of measures including spot checks and test purchases.

Councillor Miller said: “This is far from a victimless crime. Illegal tobacco trade creates a cheap source (of tobacco) for children and young people.”

“While all tobacco is harmful, the illegal tobacco market – in particular the availability of cheap cigarettes – makes it harder for smokers to quit and remain smoke free.”

He added: “The loss to the taxpayer means less money being spent on local communities, schools and the NHS.”

Across the West Midlands, a total of 5.5 million illegal cigarettes and 645kg of hand rolling tobacco was seized in 2016/17. The haul was worth more than £2.5 million and the cost to the taxpayer £2m.

HOWZAT FOR A MAYOR'S CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Preparing for the 10th charity match are, from left, Mayor Dave Tyler, Rita Pearce, club chairman Harilal Patel and Mohammed Hanif

CRICKET fans will be stumping up cash for a mayor's chosen charities at an annual match in Stourbridge next month.

The Mayor of Dudley's annual charity cricket match is in its 10th year and takes place on August 11, featuring teams of Dudley Council officers, councillors and charity supporters.

Teams of six will go head-to-head in a series of games with all proceeds going to those charities chosen by the mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, which are Dudley Mind, YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

The game, at Stourbridge Cricket Club, High Street, starts at 6pm and spectators are welcome. The club is also celebrating its 175th year.

Councillor Tyler said: “The annual cricket match is always a lot of fun and also a great way to raise money for three worthy causes.”

“Stourbridge Cricket Club is a fabulous venue for the game and we very much appreciate their support for these charities. I hope to see as many people as possible on the night.”

Among the councillors taking part are

former mayors Mohammed Hanif and Steve Waltho.

Cricket fan Councillor Hanif helped to start the event in 2007 after a match between the club and councillors took place. The councillors played a junior side and were beaten, now it takes place between councillors and council staff.

Councillor Hanif is asking the public to come along on the day help to support the fundraising causes. He said: “We are looking for people to come along and support us, there will be a raffle and a bar.”

BODY

Police do not think death is suspicious

THE death of a man found near an area of water is not believed to be suspicious, police have said.

The area – near Bourne Street, Coseley – was cordoned off at around 8.30pm on Sunday following the discovery of the body.

West Midlands Police confirmed they did not believe anyone else was involved in the incident.

A force spokesman said: “The deceased is male and identification has not yet been established.”

“His death is not thought to be suspicious.”

ACCIDENT

Woman, 81, is hurt in car crash

AN 81-year-old woman motorist was taken to hospital with injuries after a car crash in Kingswinford.

The woman, who was driving a Vauxhall Corsa, was involved in a collision with a BMW driven by a 54-year-old man on Stallings Lane, just before 11.30am on Sunday.

She suffered fractures to her right arm and leg and experienced chest pain.

POLICE

Man in fight for life after collision

A 62-year-old man was left fighting for his life after being hit by a car in Sedgley.

The man suffered a serious head injury when struck by an Audi A43 at 4.40pm on Friday on Bilston Street. He was taken to hospital where, at the time of going to Press, he was in a critical but stable condition. Witnesses should contact police on 101. The driver is assisting officers.

INSIDE

WONDERLAND IS ON THE WAY



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Plaque will honour First World War hero



Pte Barratt died aged 22

A PLAQUE will be unveiled in memory of a Victoria Cross recipient from the Black Country – exactly a century after he was posthumously awarded the honour.

Private Thomas Barratt, who died during the First World War, will be honoured with the unveiling of a plaque at Coseley Memorial, Vicarage Road, today (Thursday).

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, will be joined by the High Sheriff of the West Midlands, John Hudson, Staffordshire County President of the Royal British Legion, Peter Matthews,

and relatives of Mr Barratt at the ceremony.

The borough commemoration will include a short service led by Reverend Emma Stanford from Christ Church, Coseley.

Private Barratt, a soldier with the South Staffordshire Regiment, was posthumously awarded the VC for action at Passchendaele. His patrol came under fire from German snipers, which pinned down the patrol.

Private Barratt volunteered to cover the withdrawal of his comrades. Under heavy machine and rifle fire, he sin-

gle-handedly held off the enemy, shooting at least six of them. Barratt, aged 22, almost made it back himself but was killed by a shell.

Councillor Tyler said: "It is a great privilege and an honour to be part of a special service in memory of a true hero, who gave his life whilst saving the lives of his comrades. The bravery of Private Thomas Barratt should never be forgotten and the memorial stone is a fitting tribute."

A block of flats in Batmanshill Road, Tipton, was also named Barratt Court after the young soldier in 2012.

More pupils are being expelled from school

THE number of pupils expelled from schools in the Black Country rose by more than a quarter in a year – a second successive increase – with Dudley the worst area.

In total, 454 students in the Black Country and Staffordshire were ordered to permanently leave their school year 2015/16.

Persistent disruptive behaviour was the most common reason given but violent attacks on pupils and staff as well as drugs and alcohol misuse were also the basis of the decisions.

Across the region, it was Dudley with the highest rate of children expelled from its schools, 82 pupils – a rate of 0.17 pupils per 100. In Walsall the rate was 0.16 with 78 expelled. In Wolverhampton it was 0.15 with 63 pupils expelled, Staffordshire was 0.13 with 152 and Sandwell 0.14 with 79.

Travesty

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, Anne Millward, said she would be calling for action.

She said: "Any child expelled from school is a travesty. We need to get a grip of this, find out what measures can be taken to stop so many children being expelled.

"Kids should be in school to be educated, the fact they are expelled means they are losing out on education.

"I'd like to find out what more we can do to help particular groups of people. This is a real concern."

The statistics, released by the Department for Education, showed school bosses handed out almost 59,631 exclusions to pupils. Most were in Staffordshire – 17,304 – followed by Sandwell (13,117).

Nansi Ellis, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "These figures make for sobering reading, particularly when we see the continuing disproportionate exclusion of pupils in poverty or with a special educational need."

Black Country festival fun continues



It's party time! Sophie Webster and Stephanie Craig enjoying a sing-a-long at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill

THE Dell sports stadium was taken over by Black Country Festival fever as thousands of people turned out to join in the fun.

There was a funfair, food and craft stalls and live music at the Brockmoor and Pensnett Black Country Fun Day, described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the month-

long festival, which celebrates the region's heritage.

Brockmoor and Pensnett ward councillor Judy Foster, who attended the fun day, said: "I would say this event has been the jewel in the crown of the Black Country Festival we really hope it can continue to be an annual event."

Thousands also attended the Brier Fair held in nearby Brierley Hill.

The Black Country Festival will culminate with the Coseley Festival on Sunday, which will see live entertainment and a range of stalls at Castle Street, Roseville.

● Brier Fair – see page 20

MP demands truth over contaminated blood scandal

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is demanding that the Government reveals the truth about the contaminated blood scandal that has left 2,400 people dead.

The Labour MP is supporting many other MPs in calling for a 'full, fair and lasting settlement' for victims after speaking with constituents who were infected by tainted blood products.

Former Health Secretary Andy Burnham claims there has been a cover up.

It came as another MP accused the Government of riding 'roughshod' over the wishes of victims by letting the Department of Health (DoH) be involved in the inquiry.

Labour MP Diana Johnson said allowing the DoH to be part of the probe was like 'asking South Yorkshire Police to lead an inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster'. She has called for a full independent inquiry.

Earlier this month Theresa May announced an investigation would be held into how thousands of haemophiliacs and others were given blood products infected with hepatitis C and HIV during the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Austin, who is a member of the all-party parliamentary campaign on haemophilia and contaminated blood, said he believes the facts of the scandal have been covered up for years

Property firm has invested £42m

PROPERTY, investment and management company London and Cambridge Properties made £42 million worth of acquisitions in the first half of this year

James Buchanan, investment director for Kingswinford-based LCP, said the increase in its portfolio across the UK demonstrated LCP's commitment to investing in industrial and retail sites.

"So far this year we have added another 400,000 sq ft of industrial and retail space to our portfolio and we continue to seek commercial property that we can add value to through our active asset management approach," he said. "Last year, we invested £98 million across 41 sites in the UK."

This year has seen the group acquire 18 sites, including Churnet Park, in Leek, Staffordshire.

Supermarket jobs

ONLY a handful of jobs remained available at a supermarket in Sedgley ahead of its opening next month.

Asda has taken over the former Co-op in Sedgley and will open on August 14, having created 80 new jobs to join the 70 staff who have stayed on from Co-op.

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Crisis-hit Carillion in contracts win

STRUGGLING Black Country construction firm Carillion received some good news, after it won new support services contracts.

Its joint venture has been awarded the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's project Hestia soft facilities management contracts for the North of England and Scotland and Northern Ireland, which have a revenue value of £155 million for five years.

The Carillion joint venture will deliver services, including catering, retail and leisure, together with hotel and mess services. The North contract will employ around 1,500 people, covering 130 military establishments.

Star's pub in line for top accolade

A MIDLAND pub part-owned by Stafford-born actor Neil Morrissey has reached the finals of the Great British Pub Awards.

The Men Behaving Badly star is one of a consortium who run The Plume Of Feathers in Barlaston, near Stone in Staffordshire, and their boozer has been shortlisted in the best partnership pub category. Drinkers at the pub can enjoy a pint of the actor's very own ale, Morrissey Blonde.

Morrissey and his co-owners took over the Plume, on the banks of the Trent and Mersey Canal, in 2015. The winners will be announced on September 7 at London's Hilton Hotel.

Try your hand in art contest

THE deadline is nearing for artists in Dudley and Walsall to put forward their submissions for an art prize.

The Dawn Jones Art award invites people with experience of mental health to create artwork. Entrants must submit their work by Monday for a chance to win one of two £100 prizes. Fourteen shortlisted entries will be exhibited in August at Forest Arts Centre in Walsall and two winning entries will be displayed. Visit dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize

Recruiters reach the peak of their fitness

STAFF from a Black Country recruitment firm are gearing up for the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. Last year MET Recruitment, based in Dudley, launched MET's Year of Charity raising more than £2,500.

On August 5 staff will take on the 24-mile trek, across three peaks all in a 12 hour time frame. Money raised will go to three charities.

Festival going to get bigger and better

THE Black Country Festival will seek to expand further outside its Dudley heartland in future years, organisers have revealed.

Throughout this month events have been taking place to celebrate the Black Country with the flagship 'fun day' held in Dudley last Saturday.

While some are already held outside Dudley borough, organisers want to increase the number of activities available in Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Billy Spakemon, who helps organise and compere

events, said: "Without doubt the day and the festival are growing year after year."

"Dudley has taken the mantle from the start and really it looks after itself. The work now is we have got to get it out into Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton and have a focal day in each, like the one held in Dudley town centre."

"We want as many people as possible to share in the festival and that is what we are looking at doing in the future."

Asked what makes the Black Country unique

from other regions, Mr Spakemon said it was the friendliness of its people.

He added: "To quote a Londoner, he told me nobody ever spoke to him. When he decided to come here to do some work with Dudley College he got off the train, got a bus to Cradley and by the time he was in Dudley he knew everyone and their entire life stories."

"He felt welcome and that really sums it up. People here are straight as a die and will tell you like it is, but that is it then, move on."

Tricksters claiming an elderly victim every day

By Richard Guttridge

AT LEAST one elderly person was targeted every single day by rogue traders in Dudley in one year

A total of 369 complaints were made across the borough in 2016 about rogue traders and is estimated that these statistics are just the tip of the iceberg, perhaps as low as only five per cent of those actually targeted by crooks.

Now a crackdown has been launched by trading standards to tackle the growing problem.

The increased focus on fraudsters comes after crook Veronica Robinson was jailed for five and a half years in April for conning a 93-year-old blind man out of £250,000.

Trading standards teams will get more powers to prosecute tricksters and will visit more homes in a bid to protect vulnerable residents, who are increasingly becoming targets for criminals.

Extra staff will also be brought in to focus on financial crime as part of a £100,000 investment to bolster trading standards.

Cruel

Councillor Peter Miller, trading standards boss at Dudley Council, said: "Our trading standards team has already done some amazing work helping safeguard vulnerable people and this extra funding will go a long way to extending that work."

"It is a cruel and heartless crime hitting the most vulnerable people in our society."

"This new crackdown will help target offenders before they strike, support people most at risk and pursue those criminals who con people out of thousands of pounds."

The extra cash will fund neighbourhood visits to vulnerable people.

Skittles return after pub taken over



Managers Lesley and Stephen Roney outside the newly refurbished Queen's Head in Enville Street, Stourbridge

A 19th-century pub has been given a new lease of life after being taken over by new owners and refurbished from top to bottom.

The Queen's Head pub, on Enville Street, Stourbridge, was bought two months ago by locally based pub chain Black Country Ales.

The firm has invested a 'six-figure sum' into the pub, revamping the interior and bringing back a skittle alley, which had fallen out of use.

The pub is being run by Stephen and Lesley Roney, who are experienced in the pub industry. It reopened on last week.

Black Country Ales director Angus McMeeking said: "We have carried out a total refurbishment of the building, which is from the 19th century. It is a nice, historic pub. We have just tried to take it back to old, traditional ways."

"We have done a lot of work on a beer garden out the back, and former stable building is now a skittle alley and function room. We have redecorated the pub from top to bottom. We have opened up some old chimneys and put some traditional fire places in."

The pub offers selection of ales and ciders, including three from Black Country Ales' own brewery.

Firms signing up for new celebration of business

BLACK Country companies are already flocking to take part in the region's first business festival, set to take place next spring.

The official festival website went live this week and firms were immediately signing up to host events aimed at spreading the word far and wide about the Black Country as a place to live, work, do business and invest.

The Black Country Business Festival is a joint venture between the local chamber of commerce and brand management company Associate Events, but the key is recruiting scores of companies from across the area to get involved and run events.

Alister De Ternant, managing director of Associate Events, said: "The uptake and response from local businesses has been phenomenal. We already know of around 35 events and have already had a number of official applications for the festival on the first day of the website starting up, which is an amazing result."

Impressive

"What is already impressive is the spread of the programme so far. One of things that seems to be driving this is the pride people are showing in the Black Country, and the desire to promote it to people outside the region."

The festival has been launched online at www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com, on Twitter @BlackCountryBF and on Facebook.

The aim of the two-week festival, from April 23 to May 4 2018, is for companies to show pride in the Black Country and attract investment.

Rescue deal saves 60 jobs at foundry

AROUND 60 jobs have been saved at a Kidderminster aluminium foundry in a metals industry rescue deal.

They are among 550 people employed by the Amtek group in the UK, which has been bought out of administration by the Liberty House Group.

Headed by tycoon Sanjeev Gupta, Liberty has become a major force in the metals industry in the last few years, buying parts of Tata Steel and rescuing 1,000 Black Country jobs when it bought large parts of the collapsed Caparo Industries group.

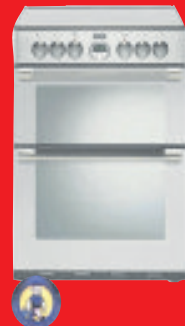
It has now acquired a manufacturer of cast aluminium engine and vehicle components, buying trade and assets of Amtek Aluminium Castings (Witham) Limited and King Automotive Systems Limited (Amtek UK) for an undisclosed sum from PwC.

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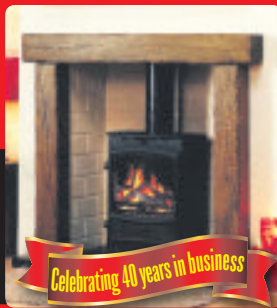
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Road bridge to close for work

A BRIDGE on a main road through the Dudley borough will close for almost two months for 'long overdue' repair works.

The single-lane bridge on High-bridge Road over the Dudley Canal in Netherton was due to close on Monday and reopen on September 8.

The road bridge is on a main route to Merry Hill shopping centre and motorists have been warned they will face difficulties for the next few months.

A diversion will be in place taking drivers via Pedmore Road and Cinder Bank toward Dudley's bypass, Duncan Edwards Way.

Golfers tee off for charity event

MORE than 80 golfers took to the fairways to raise thousands of pounds for charity at the annual sporting fundraiser staged by The West Brom at The Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wombourne.

The tournament was in aid of the Kaleidoscope Plus Group, a health and wellbeing charity, and a total of £5,500 was raised.

Staff from the West Brom were joined by business partners and suppliers, who formed 20 teams on the day. The competition was won by insurance broker AJ Gallagher.

Nostalgic night of popular songs

AN evening of popular songs from the 1930s, 40s and 50s is being held in Sedgley.

A Song to Remember takes place at the Mill Theatre in Dormston School on August 17 at 7pm. Tickets are £12 on (01384) 816389.

Appearing in concert will be mezzo-soprano Tara Kelsey and tenor Joe Johnson with pianist Wayne Baddeley.

As well as songs made famous by stars like Mario Lanza and Frank Sinatra, there will be some Chopin piano favourites.

Burger restaurant has a big Mac-over

A McDonald's restaurant in the Black Country is to undergo a revamp.

Customers will be able to use self-order kiosks at the branch on Birmingham New Road, Coseley, and table service will also be introduced.

Bob Beckett, who runs the restaurant, said: "Having already seen customers reacting positively to these changes in other restaurants, I am excited to hear what my customers in Coseley have to say."

£600k fund set to boost Halesowen town centre

TRADERS in Halesowen have voted to launch a business improvement district (BID) in their town centre. The move could bring £600,000 of extra investment into the area.

Firms had until last week to vote on the Halesowen BID project and this week chairman of the scheme, Wayne Edwards, announced businesses had voted to back the scheme.

He said: "It's taken us nearly three years of hard work and dedication, Halesowen will now become a business improvement district. Businesses across the region have voted in favour of the district and now the hard work begins in ensuring that, as an organisation, we offer the support and guidance necessary to help the town's businesses thrive."

"We have an exciting future ahead of us and I'm looking forward to sharing this new adventure with all of you."

It is the first town in the Dudley borough to have a business improvement district.

The scheme involves businesses joining forces to create a single company with each member paying a levy to form a pot of cash to be used to benefit the area.

Members decide together on how the extra cash could be spent. It can include funding special events, improving security, promoting the town or making it more attractive.

Moon art marking Apollo 11 mission

A GIANT moon art installation has landed in the West Midlands and was installed to mark an anniversary of the Moon landings.

'Museum of the Moon' has been created by artist Luke Jerram and uses detailed imagery from NASA of the lunar surface to create a scale replica. It is on show at Thinktank, Birmingham's Science Museum, until August 20 and was put in place on Friday - 48 years after the landings by the Apollo 11 mission.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the installation fuses lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound musical composition created by award-winning composer Dan Jones.

It is the first time the touring artwork will be seen in the Midlands.

Park party postponed

THE Love Stourbridge fun weekend at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge was postponed due to bad weather and the family event run by local churches will now be held on August 26 instead.

Government urged to shift rubbish heap



The huge pile of rubbish in Dudley

AN MP has urged the Government to step in to shift more than 2,000 tons of rubbish at a site in Dudley.

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, says it is 'completely unacceptable' that waste has been left to pile up on the site at Shaw Road.

Work had started to remove the waste from the private site but then came to a halt.

Mr Austin has called on Environment Secretary Michael Gove to ensure the massive mountain of rubbish is removed as soon as possible. He also urged Dudley Council, the police and

tax authorities to take tougher action with those responsible for the site.

The Environment Agency estimates 2,000 tons of rubbish are piled up at the Rowanoak site.

Mr Austin said: "Local businesses and I are fed up with the time it is taking to sort this out. It's been dragging on for far too long and I want Michael Gove to get the Environment Agency to get a grip and sort it out much more quickly."

"Local businesses pay a fortune in business rates and it is completely unacceptable that they should have this

huge mountain of rubbish and all the environmental problems it causes on their doorstep."

Mr Austin said the agency took enforcement action more than a year ago but 'only a tiny amount has been shifted and work has already stopped'.

Environment Agency environment officer Steve Rogers said: "Waste on the site of Rowanoak Waste, Shaw Road, Dudley, started to be removed by the landowner in June 2017 but has currently stopped. We are working with the landowner to rectify this situation as soon as possible."

Hospital workers are urged to speak out

HOSPITAL staff have been told they should not be afraid to speak up if there is a problem.

New 'freedom to speak up guardians' have been appointed at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley to listen to any concerns staff have.

Bosses say the move is part of their drive to create a culture of honesty.

Quality lead Derek Eaves has been appointed a guardian to work alongside current guardian and deputy chief nurse Carol Love-Mecrow.

Hospital chiefs said they were keen to ensure staff were not afraid blowing the whistle could have a damaging impact for them.

They added it was crucial issues that could affect the way the hospital operates and health of patients were raised.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said staff needed to feel supported when raising a concern.

She said: "It is really important that staff feel supported to raise any concerns they may have and that we, as an organisation, promote open and honest conversations."

Vital

"Feeling supported to speak up is vital in order to help us improve services for our patients and the working environment for other members of staff."

Ms Love-Mecrow added: "We have a clear raising concerns policy that says we want to hear about concerns, but my role gives staff an additional route."

"We will guarantee confidentiality and ensure staff are supported to raise issues which will be dealt with appropriately."

The appointments follow the recommendation of Care Quality Commission (CQC) chief Sir Robert Francis QC for every NHS employer to appoint a guardian.

Russells Hall follows other Black Country hospitals in making the step to try and improve communication with staff. New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, Walsall Manor and Sandwell General, who have all created such roles.

Ex-mayor hands £37k to charities



Mayor Dave Tyler with Mohammed Hanif, his wife Zabeda Khanam, Paul Johnson from the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Tracy McClymont of Dudley CIL and Jacqui Wilmore from Diabetes UK Dudley

A FORMER mayor of Dudley was welcomed back to the mayor's chamber to celebrate raising £37,000 during his year in office.

Current Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler invited Councillor Mohammed Hanif back to the mayoral office, along with representatives of the three charities he helped,

to honour his fundraising efforts during 2016-17.

Representatives from Friends of Alfie Johnson, Diabetes UK Dudley group and Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living went along to the mayor's parlour to receive an equal share of the funds raised. Each group received over £12,000.

Councillor Hanif said: "It was an honour to serve as Mayor of Dudley, alongside my wife Zabeda, and to be able to help raise funds for these charities so close to my heart. My wife and I would like to say a massive thank you to all the individuals and organisations that generously contributed."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Working longer is a small price to pay

MAYBE I should be grabbing my banner and marching on parliament, but all I could manage was a weary groan when the "A-word" was used following last week's announcement that us 40-somethings will have to work an extra year to claim our state pension.

Shadow work and pensions secretary Debbie Abrahams said the fact that millions now in their 40s will have to work until 68 was "an astonishing continuation of austerity". Isn't everything, these days? But really, it isn't austerity at all, it is simply facing up to the inevitable.

When the state pension was introduced in 1908, it kicked in at the age of 70, and only 25 per cent of the population would live long enough to receive it. Indeed at the start of the last century, average life expectancy in the UK was 46, so those of us affected by the change now would have been on borrowed time.

Today, we can expect to live to about 80, and the number of people reaching the age of 100 is expected to rise from 6,000 today to 56,000 by 2050. So, in the near future, tens of thousands of pensioners will have been claiming for 35 years. That is clearly not sustainable.

As for those who protest "we've paid in to the system," a maths lesson wouldn't go amiss. If people really took out what they paid into their pensions, their retirement would be very short indeed. It is only because our pension payments are invested in the stock market - those "casino bankers" who are blamed for everything - that we get any meaningful payments at all.

Personally, I'm grateful for the fact that I will probably live longer than previous generations. And if working a year or two extra is the price we have to pay, then we really don't have much to complain about.

□□□

NOT that there seems to be much sign of austerity in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, where it took no fewer than four council officials to issue a £150 fine to a five-year-old girl selling home-made lemonade in the street. They said the girl was breaching street trading regulations, and technically that may have been so. But in any sensible world, the local council would encourage such entrepreneurial flair, not reduce a child to tears.

The council has apologised and revoked the fine, but the damage is done. Isn't it amazing that while cash-strapped councils will shut libraries and museums, reduce bin collections and let the grass grow to balance the books, the cuts never seem to extend to jobsworths like these?

Claim that some media would rather see Britain fail



Liam Fox is critical of the BBC over references to Brexit



Gary Lineker pay for year - TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes



Jodie Whittaker is the first female Doctor Who. Now for female Dalek?

Is everything now - despite Brexit?

TRADE Secretary Liam Fox says some parts of the media would rather see Britain fail than Brexit succeed: "I cannot recall a single time in recent times when I have seen good economic news that the BBC did not describe as 'despite Brexit.'" Meanwhile, it is reported that the population of gannets on the sea cliffs of Yorkshire has shot up from 2,550 to 13,400. Despite Brexit.

REPORTING the rise in the gannet population, the RSPB hails it as a great breeding success, made possible by rich pickings of fish in the waters of Dogger Bank. Hang on. Aren't those our fish? At what stage does a "success" for the gannets become a threat to our cod and chips?

If you haven't done the sums yet, it takes the TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes to employ Gary Lineker at the BBC for a year.

THE joy of a Scouse accent. I caught a snippet of a telly interview with a sportswoman from Merseyside explaining how her team had to cope with "them Airedales." Hurdles, apparently.

JODIE Whittaker is the first female Doctor Who. Any suggestions for first female Dalek?

THE Advertising Standards Authority is outlawing gender stereotypes. This new piece of social engineering will ensure there will be no daffy housewives and no kitchen-incompetent husbands appearing in adverts. The harmless amusement known as the battle of the sexes has entertained humankind ever since the first caveman burnt the first mammoth burgers and the first princess reversed her chariot into the

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river. But no more. As the ASA spokesperson explained grimly: "We know that depicting gender stereotypes in ads has the potential to reinforce expectations as to how groups or individuals should look or behave because of their gender - and that can have a potentially harmful effect." Interestingly, the author of the ASA's mirthless diktat is one Ella Smilie but I guess we're not supposed to laugh at that, either.

YOU would think, would you not, that the most fervent gender campaigns would involve the most blatant discrimination? Not so. Britain has about 40,000 registered midwives but barely 100 of them are male. And yet I hear no shrill protests and see no banners unfurled. A mystery, isn't it?

AMID thunderous volleys of brilliant reviews, the new Christopher Nolan film Dunkirk is released. No movie can cover every story from the 1940 evacuation and here's one you won't find in Nolan's epic, or in any written account I have seen. It is the tale of the Sixth Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment. None of these Black Country Territorials would claim to be the bravest or the most dashing of soldiers sent over to France. They knew they had been well and truly beaten by the advancing Germans. Yet none of the many survivors I have interviewed over the years recalled any panic or pushing on the beaches. On the contrary, these part-time soldiers were well led and bound together by a strong community spirit. The secret, as they

waited for the boats, was to keep the men busy and prevent them becoming defeatist. So even as the bombs fell, the South Staffs officers and NCOs organised a sports day. A pair of abandoned motorcycles were commandeered and used in races up and down the beach. It must have been a bizarre interlude but stragglers arriving from other units sensed the cohesion of this battalion and attached themselves to it. Which is why the Sixth Battalion claimed the distinction of being the only unit of the British Army to bring more soldiers out of France than it took in.

RESEARCHERS in Exeter and London claim that doing a daily word game such as a crossword, can keep the brain young. What, even those of us who struggle for hours with "Six letters - One whose leader goes out every morning"? Eventually I cracked it: "Editor."

A READER shares the nation's irritation over people who start sentences with "So . . ." but says he's even more angered by politicians who begin their answers with "Look . . ." The ones that infuriate me are the interviewees who, when faced with a killer question, reply: "You know, the question we ought to be asking is . . ."

AS the first contracts are announced, here's an intriguing question. Why did we never have a referendum on HS2? Simple. Because the powers-that-be knew 90 per cent of the British public would vote against it. We love our countryside. We see no reason to arrive in Birmingham 20 minutes earlier. We don't see the point of a railway with hardly any stations. HS2 is a triumph of big money over democracy and our grandchildren will think we were mad. Not mad, kids. Just disenfranchised.

TALKING POINT



The sticky wicket of sexism in sport

CONGRATULATIONS to England's women cricketers who won the world cup at the weekend. Can any of them get into the men's Test side?

But where are the scantily clad pictures of captain Heather Knight, wearing just cricket pads with a bat covering her modesty?

No? Well, here's a 21st century idea. Maybe they just want to be treated as sportswomen and recognised for their achievements on the field of play.

I raise the issue as it seems sexism, particularly in sport, has reared its head again.

It took an age for the powers-that-be to decide women tennis players were worthy of being awarded the same prize money as their male counterparts - despite playing a maximum of three set games rather than five - so it shouldn't take Andy Murray to point out that Sam Querrey was the first MALE US player to reach the Wimbledon semi-final in how-ever many years.

Former champ John McEnroe claimed Serena Williams, one of the greatest there has been, would only be in the top 700 in the men's rankings ("you can't be serious?").

I am all for equality and giving credit where it is due, so if a woman is as good at their job as a man they should be similarly recompensed, this coming at a time when the BBC announces only a third of its 96 highest earners are women.

But they can't have it both ways.

Female golfers are apparently angry at a new dress code, introduced by the Ladies' Professional Golf Association which bans them from wearing clothes with plunging necklines and revealing skirts.

Breaching the code could end in a 1,000 dollar fine. So it seems they want to be objectified as well as treated like serious athletes.

Heather Daly-Donofrio, LPG tour communications and operations officer, said: "The dress code requires players to present themselves in a professional manner to reflect a positive image for the game."

Quite right too in my opinion.

Teen magazine Youth Vogue claimed the edict had set women 'way back'.

But surely, like in all walks of life, a dress code should apply.

Transport minister John Hayes believes so. He has even refused to take questions from any male MP in the House of Commons that does not wear a tie.

So, while I'm all for women being at the top of their profession, I'd rather they be there on merit, for their ability to do their job, rather than a penchant for wearing skimpy revealing outfits.

MARK SHIPP

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Why save unpleasant TV ads for tea time?

I gave up watching daytime television some years ago when I was confined to the chair following a serious operation. The programmes, rather than helping me on the road to recovery, depressed me beyond measure.

Don't get me wrong, I am not an unsympathetic person. But day after day of people screaming and shouting at one another on one channel and someone who is at death's door or in

floods of tears on the other. Films or programmes so old you could almost smell the mothballs.

So these days, after the morning news, our television does not go on again until teatime. But then our problem is with the adverts. We usually watch The Chase and then the evening news while we eat our tea – and that is when they start. All the adverts about spitting blood when you clean your

teeth, medicine to stop your constipation/diarrhoea/heartburn, treatment for head lice, something for smelly armpits/feet, or even something to stop you making the toilet smelly!

Anything unpleasant they save for when you are eating. I am sure it is planned! Pity our favourite programmes are on ITV.

JENNY JAMES
Wordsley

Bid to find long lost relatives

YEARS ago I was tracing my family tree but I seem to have come to a stop.

Perhaps some of your readers could help me find grandchildren of my uncle, who was Henry Thomas Parkes, and his wife Sarah (née Woodhall). They lived in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

The grandchildren are Jean O'Connell (née Bryan), born about 1945 in Rowley Regis, and Barry Bryan, born about 1949, Rowley Regis. There was another grandchild, I think her name was Pat (Patricia), she lived with her grandparents in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, while I think the other two grandchildren lived in the Doulton Road area, Rowley Regis.

The grandchildren are the descendants of my late father Mr John Parkes who was Henry Thomas Parkes' brother. I am hoping some of your readers can help me. If you have any information to share, please call the Express & Star on 01902 319402.

MRS TAYLOR
(née Parkes)
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Lorry drivers cause tailbacks on hills

MY letters regarding 'happenings' on the motorways regarding lorries have received what I wanted – a response from drivers. What a shame that they did not read my letters properly.

I do not criticise lorry drivers in general. Our driving practice is to drive on the nearside lane, obeying the speed limits, only pulling out to overtake. We do something that is frowned on by the law and flash our headlights to warn overtaking vehicles that it is safe to pull over back into the nearside lane. The majority wiggle their indicators in thanks. This happens whether we are towing our caravan or not. Small lorries do not always co-operate.

But I will repeat what does frustrate all motor way users. Some lorry drivers try to overtake going up slopes when then do not have the speed or power to do so, causing unnecessary tailbacks. This situation is resolved by having uphill sections banned to overtaking vehicles. This is not my law, it is laid down by the people who make the rules. It operates, to my knowledge on parts of the A14 and the M4.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

HS2 only benefits the well-off

AT last plans have been unveiled for this unwanted project, HS2. We have been told of the projected cost and time scale for completion, but we know that none of these projects is completed on time, nor within budget.

Has anyone, I wonder, considered the cost to those who will be affected by this scheme, or the cost of tickets in order to reach London 25 minutes faster? This is not being built for the general public but only those people with unlimited income or travelling on expenses.

This country is not big enough to justify the expense and disruption which HS2 will cause. Surely the money would be better spent on upgrading what has been left of the rail network following Dr Beeching.

It will probably transpire that it would be cheaper to fly rather than travel by these new trains.

We are told of the employment prospects that this scheme will bring, but where are we to find the skills required?

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

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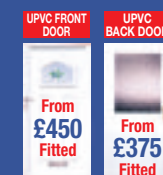
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It's been a nightmare but now we can grieve

'IT'S been an absolute nightmare' - words of the family of Mark Jennens, who was cleared after being wrongly accused of killing his frail elderly mother.

The 40-year-old from Brierley Hill was found not guilty of manslaughter after his 78-year-old Hazel fell on Christmas Eve 2015 following an argument over the festive dinner.

She died at Russells Hall Hospital less than a month later from infection. Now the family say they just want to grieve for their mother and say the case should never have gone to court.

Mr Jennens sister Tracey Jennens said: "Since the moment mum passed away it has been an absolute nightmare. We have never been allowed to see her. She had numerous post mortems. It has been horrific. We couldn't have the funeral for 14 months.

Upsetting

"We feel like we have had our rights taken away from us. It should never have got this far. There was no public interest in this."

His other sister Dawn Ellis added: "Now we can just get on with grieving for her. We couldn't even have the funeral until this year. It has been so upsetting. She would not have wanted this for Mark."

The case revealed the pair had rowed over how to cook potatoes moments before Mr Jennens pulled his mother up by the arms and tried to frogmarch her to the door, when she collapsed breaking her hip.

It subsequently emerged during his trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court was how the heavy burden of looking after his mother, who had lung cancer



Mark Jennens, third from right, with family and friends after found not guilty

and emphysema, took its own toll on Mr Jennens. He had suffered a breakdown in early 2015 after caring for his mother for more than a decade but when he sought help from social services his mother declined support.

Mr Jennens said: "I can't fault social services. If a person who needs care refuses to participate you are left to drift. It is not social services' fault. "There needs to be more of a balance struck between the people providing care and the people who need it."

The jury was told Mr Jennens' own mental state declined further, which led to insomnia and him losing his job.

The court heard that by that Christmas 24 years of verbal abuse from his mother had brought him to breaking point. A jury took just one hour and 23 minutes to find him not guilty of manslaughter.

Diane Wake, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is a very tragic case and our thoughts are with the family. We investigate every death in hospital and these form part of our mortality review process. No clinical issues were raised during our investigation and we would be happy to discuss any concerns the family have with them."

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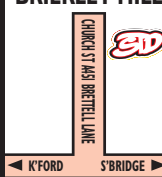
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What a feeling as New Alex season announced

Fat Friends and Flashdance

FROM iconic musicals to favourite children's characters to Derren Brown and Katie Price – there is something for everyone in the newly-unveiled autumn season line-up at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

The highly-anticipated Cilla The Musical, Fay Mellor's new production of Fat Friends starring cricket legend Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff, West End smash Jersey Boys and The Sound of Music are some of the hit shows coming to the theatre in the coming months.

And there is fun for all the family with such favourites as Miracle on 34th Street The Musical, David Walliams' Awful Auntie and the acclaimed Shrek The Musical.

Riotous

First up in the new season are Strictly Come Dancing stars and West End favourites Vincent and Flavia who return with their new show Tango Moderno from September 19-23.

Inspired by the hit film, Broadway's Tony Award nominated Bring It On The Musical somersaults into Birmingham from September 25 to 30 as part of its first ever UK Tour.

British classic Monty Python's Spamalot returns from October 3-7 with a riotous comedy full of misfit knights, killer rabbits, dancing nuns and ferocious Frenchmen.

Cilla The Musical is a heart-warming musical adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series by Jeff Pope, based on the early life of Cilla Black. The musical score is the ultimate soundtrack to the 60s including Cilla's greatest hits Anyone Who Had A Heart, Alfie, and Something Tells Me.

Kara Lily Hayworth fought off competition from thousands of hopefuls in nationwide auditions to take the lead role in the show running from October 10-14.

EastEnders' favourites Jessie Wallace and Paul Bradley lead the cast of Deathtrap, a spine chiller visiting the New Alex from November 7-11 which tells the tale of Sidney Bruhl, a once successful writer who is in the grip of chronic writer's block when young playwright Clifford Anderson sends him a brilliant whodunnit.



Kara Lily Hayworth plays Cilla Black



Andrew Flintoff appears in Fat Friends

Birmingham Musical and Operatic Society (BMOS) bring their production of the Christmas classic Miracle on 34th Street to the



Flashdance star, Strictly's Joanne Clifton



Flavia Cacace joins Vincent Simone on stage

theatre from November 14-18. After the sell-out success of Gangsta Granny, Birmingham Stage Company return with their next David Walliams' adaptation, Awful Auntie, from November 22 to 26.

Iconic hits such as Maniac, Gloria and What A Feeling are back in Flashdance The Musical, which stars Strictly Come Dancing's Joanne

Clifton and A1 heart-throb Ben Adams. The musical runs from December 4 to 9.

After a sell-out run in 2014, West End and Broadway phenomenon Jersey Boys, telling the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons is also back for Christmas 2017, running from December 16 to January 6.

The Sound of Music returns to the stage in January. Based on Barnoress Maria Von Trapp's 1949 autobiography, this lavish new staging, produced by Bill Kenwright, runs from January 16 to 20.

Meanwhile, from the team behind Gaslight which was a hit at the theatre in January, returns with the masterful thriller Strangers On A Train. Based on the 1950 novel by Patricia Highsmith it runs from January 29 to February 3. February half term sees the arrival of ogre Shrek. It runs from February 14 to 25.

Musical

The electrifying musical This is Elvis, has also been announced, and will play from March 19 to 24. The production, from Bill Kenwright and Laurie Mansfield, recreates all the drama leading to the musical event of the year in 1968, which was the first live TV special for Elvis Presley. It features, of course, many of his greatest hits.

A highlight is a musical version and stage debut of one of Kay Mellor's Fat Friends The Musical. Running from April 3-7, the show focuses on the characters at a regular weight loss group and the cast includes Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff, Jodie Prenger and Natalie Anderson.

Master of illusion Derren Brown returns next week (July 24-26) for his latest show Underground.

In an audience with Katie Price on November 1, she Katie will perform her brand new single I Got U and talk about her life stories, while Mitchell Brunings, lead of the sell-out musical One Love, comes to Birmingham on October 11 and 23 to perform one off special Marley Reprised, bringing a full evening of Bob Marley's greatest hits to the stage.

For more details, or for tickets, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.

Pool scheme is backed by swim star Ellie

PROPOSALS for a new-build aquatics centre in the Black Country as part of Birmingham's Commonwealth Games bid have been hailed as an important sports and community investment.

Sandwell's place on the city's border has seen it eyed up as a perfect destination to support the Games.

Poolside spectator seating would be for around 1,000, with a further 4,000 seats installed on a temporary basis during the Games. It would be scheduled to be operational in 2021 and could lead to British swimming stars such as Adam Peaty going head to head in the borough with the cream of Australia and South Africa in front of thousands of fans from across the globe.

Walsall-born Ellie Simmonds OBE, five-time Paralympic swimming champion, also hailed the centre as being forefront in inspiring the next generation of swimmers and encouraging residents to swim.

She said: "When I was a youngster progressing up the rankings, I had to move from Walsall to Wales in order to find facilities of the standard I needed to train. I am so excited about the possibility of the Commonwealth Games coming to Birmingham and urge everyone to back the Birmingham Bid."

Great outdoors best way to relax

SPENDING time in the great outdoors is the favourite way for people in the West Midlands to unwind, according to a survey.

A poll to mark National Parks Week from July 24-30, has revealed that people in the region rate national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty as their top places to visit. A quarter of people polled (26 per cent) said that what makes a place irreplaceable to them is that it improves their mood. This was the more important than spending time with their family, 21pc, and spending time with their community, 20pc.

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Now Quarry Bank is looking blooming lovely

QUARRY Bank is bursting with colour in a bid to secure a coveted 'in bloom' title.

Businesses and residents have come together to create a spectacular scene on the High Street and in its main park and church.

The area is bidding to go one better after taking the silver award in the prestigious competition last year.

Mary Sparks, secretary of the Friends of Stevens Park in Quarry Bank, said: "I think the judges were impressed. For the first time this year the park is included in Quarry Bank in Bloom and we're

very pleased about that. Most of the shops in the High Street have got involved and presented some sort of floral display. The church congregation should be very pleased with their efforts, it looks beautiful."

The judges were also informed of plans to revamp the park as part of a bid for Heritage Lottery funding. A community garden and pond will be added and the football pitch and footpaths resurfaced in a bid to make the area more attractive for families. The park's historic White House building will be restored and the bandstand refurbished as part of the project.



Friends of Stevens Park chairman David Sparks, centre, with judges Paul Ash and Graham Redfern

Fanfare for a rock keyboard legend

FANS of rock star Keith Emerson can enjoy an evening dedicated to the late musician in Birmingham.

Keith Emerson: A Musical Celebration Of Life will feature keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman and a symphony orchestra at Symphony Hall tomorrow night (Friday).

The evening will pay tribute to Emerson, a keyboard legend himself, as well as the music of the powerhouse trio Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

Emerson first found fame with the band Nice in the late 1960s before forming ELP with bassist Greg Lake from King Crimson and drummer Carl Palmer from Atomic Rooster in 1970. They had several hit albums and a hit single with Fanfare For The Common Man.

Others set to appear include Californian pianist Rachel Flowers, French musician Thierry Eliez and ELP tribute act Noddy's Puncture. See thsh.co.uk for details. The event is raising money for Care After Combat. Emerson, 71, committed suicide last year in California.

Hard choice faced over jobs or the countryside

SHOULD the green belt be built on to develop new industries which are needed in the Black Country over the next 20 years?

That question's being asked as it's revealed that councils need to find 300 hectares - or more than 300 rugby pitches - of land for industries and businesses in order to boost the economy and employment opportunities by 2036.

A key question of public consultation, launched by the Black Country Core Strategy which is run by the councils of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, is should any green belt be released to make up the space?

This is just an option at this stage but the question is being asked as part of the study.

The core strategy is a planning and regeneration proposal for the whole of the region. It also looks at where homes should be built.

People living in the Black Country are being asked to share their views by September 8, when the consultation closes.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "This document will shape the Black Country for a generation and it's absolutely critical that people have their say on it."

Grow

"Making the most of brownfield land is a high priority for us and one of Dudley Council's main objectives in our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority. However, clearly at some point in the coming decades we are going to run out of these kind of sites as our population and our economy continues to grow."

"That's why we are launching a consultation, along with the other three Black Country authorities, to enable people to have their say. It's important people tell us what they think and we would urge them to get in touch."

The Black Country Core Strategy outlines how many homes need to be built and how to plan for the number of extra jobs needed for a growing population. It also decides where homes and businesses should be located. The consultation document says nearly 80,000 homes need to be built in the Black Country before 2036. It says sites have already been earmarked for around



Councillor Patrick Harley

60,000. But new plots of land need to be found for nearly 22,000 properties.

The original document was launched six years ago and covers the period up to 2026. The public consultation will be on a review of the document to take it up to 2036.

Feedback from the consultation will be analysed by council bosses before an updated version of the plans are put out for consultation next year.

Residents are also being asked to give their views regarding where housing should be built, as part of the Black Country Core Strategy's public consultation.

There is a 'call for sites', as part of the public consultation, where people can put forward areas of land they feel may be suitable for development.

The information from the consultation will be collated and used to produce a proposed review document, which will again go out to consultation next year.

People can find out more about the consultation and take part at blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk.

Leaflets will also be available from libraries across the Dudley borough, or they can be requested by calling (01384) 814136.

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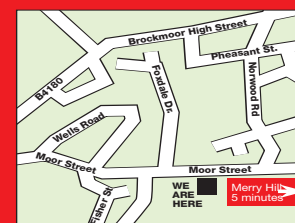
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Home alone worries spur calls to NSPCC

THE NSPCC referred nearly 120 cases to police and children's services in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year, the organisation has revealed.

The referrals came in the wake of calls and emails from members of the public worried about children left home alone.

Ahead of the summer holidays, children's charity bosses have confirmed specialist counsellors on its 24-hour Helpline made 119 referrals in 2016-17 to local agencies in the region.

Of these, 44 referrals were made to authorities in Staffordshire, 28 in Sandwell, 19 in Dudley, 15 in Walsall and 13 in Wolverhampton.

NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said: "Deciding if a child is ready to be left on their own can be a very difficult decision and the summer holidays can be a difficult time for parents and carers as they face increasing childcare pressures. Although there is no minimum age, no child should be left on their own if there is any risk they will come to harm."

To help parents and carers the NSPCC has issued guidance on leaving children home alone on its website. The NSPCC's helpline is available 24/7 on 0800 800 5000.

Community cricket club unveils £34,000 revamp of its HQ

A BLACK Country cricket club has undergone a major revamp to improve its facilities and increase capacity.

Pedmore Cricket Club, in Stourbridge, has spent £34,000 refurbishing its clubhouse, redecorated and upgraded with new electrics and plumbing.

Councillor Angus Lees, of the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward, said the upgrade was 'well deserved' as the club helped the community and brought young players through its ranks.

The 125-year-old cricket club held an official opening earlier this month to mark the completion of work.

Councillor Lees said: "It is a community club, which encourages young

and local people to come together and play a traditional sport."

Councillor Lees attended the official opening alongside fellow ward councillor Les Jones, who tweeted: "Had the privilege of officially opening Pedmore Cricket Club's new clubhouse extension. Well done to all that helped make it happen."

He added: "The club has been completely redecorated inside and out"

Howzat as Worcs fans walk for cancer charity

A GROUP of intrepid cricket supporters are putting their best feet forward to raise funds for a cancer charity. The group of Worcestershire County Cricket Club fans will walk the 30 miles from Worcestershire's New Road to Warwickshire's home at Edgbaston on August 4 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Tim Cox, Keith Jones, Mark Ashbourne, Michael Podmore and Michael Bishop aim to arrive at Edgbaston in time to watch the two sides compete in a T20 clash that evening.

The walk is named The Fell Walk in honour of Worcestershire player Tom Fell who at the age of 24 has beaten cancer twice. To sponsor them, call 07506 747619 or visit justgiving.com/fundraising/Mark-Ashbourne

MP donates £500 from his pay rise



Ian Austin presents the cheque to YMCA's Rachael Taylor

AN MP has handed over a cheque for £500 to the YMCA Black Country Group after promising to use his pay rise to help charities.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin donated the cash from his 'Good Causes' fund, which he set up with the 10 per cent pay rise handed to MPs in 2015. The donation will support the YMCA's Open Doors Project which finds homes for homeless young people with families.

The YMCA provides a range of youth and community services including accommodation, health advice, training and education for young people in the Black Country.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "I promised at the election that when times are tough for so many local families I would use the MPs' pay rise to help good causes."

"The YMCA does brilliant work in Dudley and the wider Black Country so I am really pleased to hand over £500 to help them continue their support for local youngsters."

For more information on the YMCA Black Country Group see the www.ymcabc.org.uk website.

Visitors can use app to probe park history

VISITORS to an historic Dudley park have been urged to download an app to find out more about its past.

The app allows visitors a unique insight into Dudley's Priory Park. It was officially opened as a park in 1932 but the land has a history dating back around a thousand years.

Features of the app include a GPS park map showing visitors their location and information about recent restoration, including 'before and after' photographs. There is also a GPS Art Trail to the various art works located around the park, including a statue of local Wimbledon hero Dorothy Round.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment, said: "The app is a brilliant use of modern technology, giving visitors the chance to explore the history of the park first hand via their phones. It is designed to be used as a companion when visiting the site but can equally be used and enjoyed from the comfort of your own home."

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Lining up – the Viking road racing team c.1951



An advert showing Russell street works



TTHC member Harry Stant on a Viking racing bike



Bob Thom winning a road race for Viking



The Viking works in Princess Alley

How Viking weighed in with light racing cycles

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

OVER the years there have been more than 80 bicycle manufacturers in Wolverhampton. One of the largest was Viking Cycles, famous for lightweight racing bikes.

The company was founded at 5 Wolverhampton Road, Heath Town by Victor Davies, in 1908. It expanded to larger premises in Broad Street in 1928. They opened a shop on Princess Street in 1934, and further works down Princess Alley the following year. It became a limited liability company in 1939, Viking Cycles Ltd.

After the war further premises were opened in St Peter's Square, and by now they were making 2,000 bicycles a year, most notably the lightweight racing bikes, and decided to form their own team. One of the greatest racers of the day, Bob Thom, was recruited to manage and ride for the team which started in 1948, and became an immediate force in road racing, winning many major races.

Production increased rapidly, with up to 1,250 dealers across the country, and by 1963 they were making 20,000 bikes a year with a workforce of 70. By then various premises had been consolidated occupying the much larger Merridale Works in Russell Street, but soon afterwards there was something of a slump in the trade.

The company, now run by Ron Davies, Victor's son, survived for a while with a revolutionary children's bike, which grew telescopically, with the child, but in 1967 Viking had to cease production. The company was bought by two Americans who moved production to Londonderry, where the bikes were just assembled, with bought-in components.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre has a growing collection of Wolverhampton-built two wheelers, including a Viking racing bicycle, and they would like to know the colours of the Viking Racing Team, to recreate the kit.



The site of the shop in Princess Street

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Royal stamp of approval

A FESTIVE scene by a schoolgirl from Dudley will be on millions of Christmas card envelopes after winning a competition to design one of the UK's official stamps.

Ten-year-old Arwen Wilson is one of two winners in a national Christmas stamp contest with her design picked by Prince Charles and approved by The Queen.

St Chad's Catholic Primary pupil Arwen's design - Snow Family - will feature on the 2nd class Christmas stamp. The 1st class stamp will use a design by Ted Lewis-Clark from Somerset. Both Arwen and Ted will be presented with a framed set of their stamp designs by Prince Charles.

A special postmark will also feature on mail delivered to addresses nationwide.

Pudding

Each child will have their name on the postmark for a week in November. Arwen's postmarks will feature on mail delivered from November 14.

Geoff Braden, of Royal Mail, one of the regional judges, said of Arwen's design: "I particularly like the Christmas pudding and the mischievous snowman with the snowballs."

Royal Mail chief executive officer Moya Greene said: "We received a phenomenal response to our Christmas stamp design competition this year with over 200,000 entries from children across the UK."

It is only the fourth time in the Royal Mail's 500-year history that children have designed Christmas stamps. The winners both won £1,000 in vouchers and £1,000 for their schools. Other Christmas stamps for different postal rates, and a religious-themed issue, will be available from November 7.



Arwen Wilson is making her mark on Christmas with her snowman family design



Arwen's design - Snow Family - will be on the nation's second class stamps

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The cost of a day at Daybreak is **£35** or a half day, including lunch, is **£18**.

Visit us to see what you think. If you are interested for yourself or a family member please contact Mandy Hopeton, Daybreak Co-ordinator on **01384 340608** or email mandy.hopeton@ageukdudley.org.uk Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

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1618 months of roadworks to hit the M5

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 27, 2017

DRIVERS are facing traffic chaos on the M5 with major restrictions about to come in as part of an 18-month long roadworks scheme.

From the end of the month, north-bound and southbound traffic will be filtered in two lanes onto one side of the carriageway between junctions one and two for West Bromwich and Oldbury – with vehicles crawling at 30mph.

It has also been revealed that traffic will be cut to two lanes heading north-bound from junction three at Hale-sowen to limit the amount of vehicles approaching the roadworks zone and avoid a bottleneck.

The scheme to repair Oldbury viaduct started at Easter, but so far drivers have faced minimal disruption, with the speed limit cut to 40mph but all lanes still open. Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling has warned of chaos on the M5 in the coming months but roads bosses insist the measures are necessary for safety reasons.

Motorists have been warned to prepare for the changes, which are expected to cause significant delays, and consider taking alternative routes. Slip roads will remain open throughout the works.

Highways England senior project manager, Zbigniew Twarowski, said: "This is essential work."

Volunteers needed for reading help

VOLUNTEERS are sought to help children reach their potential and improve their reading skills.

Support includes becoming a 'Beanstalk helper', helping children to learn through reading.

For information, visit www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk or email westmidlandsapplications@beanstalkcharity.org.uk or call 0121 771 2922.

Man admits trying to kill shopkeeper – three years on

Antonia bobs up with fundraiser

A 10-year-old girl provided the centre piece for a fund raising event by having 30 inches of her hair cut off.

Antonia Pratt sat on a chair in the middle of the beer garden at the rear of the Three Cups Inn on Spring Road, Lanesfield on Saturday afternoon.

Scores of parents and children watched and applauded as she had the hair, which had reached to her knees before it was plaited ready for collection, transformed into a shoulder bob by 26-year-old Emma Finch who works at a salon in Kingswinford.

The hair and half of the cash raised at the event, which also included food and music, will go to the Little Princess Trust which provides real hair wigs free of charge to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland who have lost their own hair due to cancer.

Antonia, who lives with her family Woodcross, Coseley, made the gesture after her grandmother lost her life to cancer around Christmas.

She and other members of the Lauren Dion School of Dance had performed at an earlier St George's Day charity event at the pub which raised £2,000, some of which was donated to the Little Princess Trust.

Antonia, who had only had her hair cut three times in her life before, explained: "I thought the world of my nan and wanted to do something in her memory for children."

The event raised at least £500 with the sum split between Little Princess Trust and research into bowel cancer.



Antonia Pratt had 30 inches of hair cut off to raise money for charities

A PARANOID schizophrenic has admitted attempting to murder a shopkeeper by stabbing him 41 times in a 'frenzied' attack – almost three years after the incident.

David Dean was deemed unfit to plead to the charge due to the state of his mental health two years ago. But last week, after being given the all-clear by two psychiatrists, the 45-year-old reappeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court and delivered his guilty plea.

The court heard how Dean leapt over the counter at News and Booze in Bilston and repeatedly stabbed 51-year-old Purshotam Lal. He then fled, leaving his victim, who later required 43 stitches, severely injured.

Dean, currently being treated at the Reaside Hospital near Birmingham, will remain locked up indefinitely in a secure hospital under sentencing by Judge John Wait.

Frenzied

Mr Wait described how Dean's deteriorating mental condition at the time had left him with a 'holy disillusioned' view on reality.

Judge Wait told Dean: "You came to believe that those who run the shop were in truth some form of hostile force troubling your mother. You take it on yourself to seek to kill Mr Lal."

He added: "You had fallen in such a state that you launch this awful, frenzied attack on him."

Ms Heidi Kubik, prosecuting, played CCTV of the incident, at around 9.30pm on December 21, 2014. It showed Dean entering the shop and attacking Mr Lal's attention before stabbing him repeatedly.

He was arrested two days later after being seen acting strangely in East Park.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "Dean is appalled by his behaviour that day."

Industrial link to death of ex-miner

A FORMER miner who worked as a coal cutter during his 35 years down the pit died from an industrial disease, an inquest has ruled.

Kenneth Billingham, of Hilton Road, Featherstone, Wolverhampton had suffered from shortness of breath in recent years but his condition deteriorated markedly in January and he died in New Cross Hospital on July 9.

He had been a coal miner between 1953 and 1988 at three mines, Hilton, Hednesford and Littleton Colliery in Cannock, his daughter Jane Billingham told the inquest at Oldbury.

A post mortem showed that the 78-year-old died from respiratory failure as a result of pneumoconiosis. He had worked at the coalface for most of his career.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique concluded that Mr Billingham died of an industrial disease.

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Lily creates winning design for booklet

THE winner of a competition to design the front cover of a welcome booklet for young patients on a hospital's children's ward has been announced.

Lily Piddington, aged 14, from Holly Hall Academy in Dudley was chosen as the winner by members of the public who cast their vote on The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's Facebook page.

Lily, who has chosen to study art and design for her GCSEs next year, said she wanted to keep her welcome booklet design for Russells Hall Hospital simple.

She said: "I thought it would be nice to say that doctors aren't

anything to be afraid of no matter what's happened to you.

"I wanted to show the people in my design could be anyone, no matter what race they are."

The design will be used on the front cover of the children's ward welcome booklet and given to every patient who stays on the ward.

Lily added: "My mum and dad were really happy I won the competition.

"They are really proud of me."

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Trust, presented Lily with a £50 Intu Merry Hill voucher. In second place was Michael Ezeji with Amman Ahmed third.



The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Diane Wake with winning artist Lily Piddington

MP's anger over litter and weeds

COUNCIL chiefs have been criticised for the state of a borough's streets, verges and open spaces by an MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has urged Dudley Council to reverse its decision to stop cutting the grass and dealing with weeds across the borough.

Mr Austin said he has been contacted by residents from Sedgley, Gornal, Woodsetton, Kate's Hill, Russells Hall and the town centre to complain of the overgrown grass, out of control weeds and litter on the streets.

He said: "I'm from Dudley, I love the place and I'm proud of it but people have contacted me from all over area complaining about the state of the streets, grass verges, roundabouts and open spaces. Look at the islands at Castlegate and Flood Street. They are the gateway to Dudley and the first things visitors see, yet the grass isn't being cut properly, weeds are out of control and litter is being left. How is that going to attract visitors or encourage investment?"

Extension of hours at Lidl approved by the council

AN increase in operating hours at a supermarket have been approved by council bosses despite objections from residents.

Lidl successfully applied to Dudley Council to extend times at its store in Halesowen Road, Netherton, for an extra two hours each day, increasing from 8am to 9pm, up to 7am and 10pm.

Residents accused the store of already flouting its operational hours under its old set times, which included reports of lorries 'thundering' onto the shop's car park at 5am and then leaving their engines running, waking residents.

A spokesman for Lidl said the store was addressing the issue 'with the hauliers directly, to ensure that the agreed delivery windows are being adhered to'.

Flexibility

The spokesman said: "As we experience increased demand, it is necessary for us to have the flexibility in place to adapt our operational availability for the benefit of our customers.

"We were disappointed to hear feedback regarding the gates and out of hours deliveries.

"This is being addressed with the hauliers directly, to ensure that the agreed delivery windows are being adhered to." Council bosses gave the green light at a development scrutiny meeting but said the store must adhere to the conditions that it will not open to the public before 7am and after 10am each day, and deliveries should not take place before 7am and after 9pm on weekdays, before 8am and after 9pm on Saturdays, and before 10am and after 5pm on Sundays.

The store's opening hours – which are different from operating hours – are from

By Jamie Brassington

8am to 8pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews ward councillor Elaine Taylor, who spearheaded a campaign to stop the operating times changing, said: "I find it very hard for them not to have had their request granted. The pressure is there from neighbouring supermarkets.

"Primarily, although Lidl was already breaching the conditions, it wasn't breaching them enough to stop them granting those further operating hours."

A council report into the application to extend the operating times said: "Objections have been received from the occupiers of three dwellings, which front onto Halesowen Road. One objector has now written in three times. An objection has also been received from a ward councillor.

"These make the following points: The store already infringes the opening times – the gates are never padlocked shut and have been left open many times.

"The flouting of the opening times seriously impedes the basic right of neighbours to have quiet time; and large lorries thunder across the car park to the rear of the store before 6am, engines are revved whilst reversing into the loading bay."



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Glow on – rare creatures are thriving at beauty spot

A RECORD number of glow-worms have been spotted at a nature reserve near Kingswinford.

A group of volunteers have been spending two months counting glow-worms at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Highgate Common nature reserve.

During one of the counts, a record 146 glow-worms were recorded. The ancient heathland which covers Highgate Common is a perfect habitat for glow-worms, which are actually a type of bioluminescent beetle.

18 Winter ales fair needs volunteers

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 27, 2017

THE Dudley Winter Ales Fair will go ahead this winter but still needs more helpers to ensure its success.

The 32nd annual event is to take place in Dudley Town Hall from November 23 to 25.

The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale held a 'viability' meeting in the Park Inn, Woodsetton, to establish if enough support was available to stage the beer festival.

The branch has appointed Karl Denning to be the festival organiser and has filled several of the main organising roles. Mr Denning urged branch members to go along to the first festival committee meeting on Monday at the Park Inn at 8pm.

Zoo tiger team raising funds

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo are being encouraged to earn their stripes by raising funds for tigers this weekend.

Keepers will be highlighting the plight of tigers in the wild with the help of the zoo Sumatran tigers, Daseep and Joao to mark Global Tiger Day on Saturday. Staff will be raising funds for 21st Century Tiger, which supports conservation projects, including a raffle to win a special tiger experience.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Eyesore office block is due to be demolished next year

AN EYESORE office block which has sat empty for years in Dudley town centre is to be demolished next year, a senior councillor has revealed.

Cavendish House will be knocked down to make way for a multi-million pound retail development, under proposals to regenerate the town centre.

Plans have been in the pipeline to demolish the multi-storey building off Trindle Road for some time, but the project has been delayed.

But now Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley has revealed that he expects the property to be demolished some time next year.

A planning application to pull down the former office block is expected to be submitted by its owners, Avenbury, to Dudley Council in the next few weeks.

Exciting

It will pave the way the way for a new development which will consist of leisure and retail enterprises and homes, said Councillor Harley.

"It is quite an exciting time for Dudley, there a lot of things that are about to

By James Brassington

start," he said. "There is a lot of money being pumped into the infrastructure of Dudley."

"We expect the planning application to develop the whole area to take place in late July or early August."

"A light demolition of the site will probably take place at the end of the year. The full demolition will probably take place next year."

"It has been long overdue. Cavendish House has been a blot on the landscape for more years than I can remember."

The block overlooks the Duncan Edwards Way bypass - one of the major gateways into Dudley.

Avenbury bought Cavendish House for £800,000 at a property auction in London in 2015.



Blot on the townscape - Cavendish House is due to make way for new shops and leisure facilities in Dudley town centre

Play tennis for free at Priory Park

A NATIONAL sports charity has served up an ace by investing in a year-long programme of tennis sessions.

Tennis For Free aims to get hundreds of people across Dudley making a racket at Priory Park, Paganell Drive.

In a post-Wimbledon push, the charity has created a partnership with Dudley Council, Sandwell Leisure Trust and the Lawn Tennis Association.

It will help to provide free coach-led tennis sessions for all the family, and started on Sunday. Equipment will be provided free of charge.

There is a statue of double Wimbledon winner and Dudley-born Dorothy Round, who won the All England Championships in 1937 and 1943, at Priory Park.

Sandwell Leisure Trust's tennis operation officer Lee Marks said: "We are all very excited to welcome Tennis For Free to Priory Park. It is a fantastic opportunity for all members of the local community to get into the spirit of trying tennis for either the first time or to try again."

Tennis For Free chief executive Paul Jessop said: "This is our third site launch in the West Midlands in 2017 and we hope to open others before the end of the summer."

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Counselling centre has scooped £10,000 prize

A COUNSELLING centre has scooped £10,000 worth of materials and labour after winning a competition run by a builder's merchants.

Dudley Counselling Centre on Salop Street, Dudley, was crowned regional winner in the Jewson Building Better Communities competition 2017. The money will be spent on demolishing its existing building and building a new one.

Pastor Joe Hayes, chairman of the centre, commented: "We are absolutely delighted to have won £10,000. We have a project to demolish and rebuild our existing centre, which is long overdue. We have plans for the future, to increase counselling for adults and children, and also improve our offering to the homeless people we help."

More than 2,000 entries were submitted and, with the help of Jewson employees and suppliers, the number was narrowed down to a shortlist of 42. A public vote then took place before further judging. In total Jewson has given away £250,000 to building projects and people making a difference in communities.

Dudley Counselling Centre offers support services to residents with issues, including bereavement, financial difficulties, unemployment, loneliness and substance abuse.

I do believe it, now Doreen's at the zoo



Doreen also visited Dudley Zoo's ring-tailed lemurs

DOREEN Tipton was handed the perfect gift for any animal lover – a namesake at Dudley Zoo now a baby deer has been named in her honour.

The comic character went on a trip to the zoo, where she got up close with the lemurs, and staff there also surprised her by revealing they have named the zoo's new baby reindeer after her.

Doreen was given a VIP tour of the Castle Hill attraction, where she filmed scenes for her latest DVD as well as visiting the lemurs and cuddling a tapir and paying a visit to Doreen the reindeer, the first born to mother Bracken and father Ghost.

She said: "I'm really touched. It's actually brought a tear to my eye, as I've never had anything named after me before."

Dudley Zoo is a sponsor of this coming festive season's panto at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Jack and the Beanstalk, in which Doreen stars alongside Gareth Gates and Lisa Riley.

MP marks milestone for apprenticeships

A BLACK Country MP welcomed apprentices to the House of Commons last week to celebrate the 11,000 apprenticeships provided by the UK's aerospace, defence, security and space industries.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin welcomed 100 apprentices, including Thomas Connors from Sedgley who works at UTC in Wolverhampton. They were in Parliament to show the contribution apprentices make to high-skill manufacturing industries, and the world-leading technologies apprentices are working to develop.

The apprentices were from some of Britain's leading aerospace, defence, security and space companies at an event organised by ADS, the trade organisation for companies in the UK aerospace, defence, security and space sectors.

Mr Austin said: "It was great to meet Thomas and other apprentices from the Black Country. We need to make education and skills our country's number one priority."

Travellers' transit site will be 'away from residential areas'

A TEMPORARY travellers' site to tackle illegal camps across Dudley borough would be built away from residential areas, says council boss Patrick Harley.

Dudley chiefs are currently looking at areas to build such a site in the borough, in the wake of a series of camps

which have required police to evict travellers.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley says a temporary site would help to reduce 'incursions' in the borough and having such a site gives police and councils greater powers to tackle illegal land invasions.

It comes as police evicted more than 30 caravans spread across three sites in Brierley Hill on July 5, which left

Dudley Council with the bill for a major clean-up operation.

"Officers are trying to find one," said Councillor Harley. "We need to identify a couple of areas and put them out to consultation. But a temporary travellers' site needs to be away from residential areas. In a lot of local authorities that have them, there is a 70 per cent reduction on illegal incursions."

Deadline approaches for art competition

THE deadline is fast approaching for artists in Dudley and Walsall to put forward their submissions for an art prize. The Dawn Jones Art award invites people with experience of mental health to create artwork.

Entrants must submit their work by Monday (July 31) for a chance to win one of two £100 prizes, plus exhibition time in Walsall and Dudley.

The competition was set up by Maureen Jones in memory of her daughter, Dawn Jones, who committed suicide in 2005 at the age of 25 following a long battle with depression.

Fourteen shortlisted entries will be exhibited in August at Forest Arts Centre in Walsall and two winners will go on long-term display. Visit dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize

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Brier Fair gets them dancing in the streets



Natasha Zackarzewski and Jack Lowe re-enact Dirty Dancing in the indoor market at Brierley Hill during the Brier Fair

THOUSANDS visited a high street fair as part of the Black Country Festival celebrations.

Brierley Hill's High Street was hosting the Brier Fair.

The day's festivities, which took place on Saturday between 11am and 4pm, included fairground rides and lots of stalls and street entertainment.

Organiser Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival, said thousands had descended on the town centre for the event.

He added: "It went really really well,

it was ram-packed. It exceeded all our expectations.

"We had fairground rides, water boat rides for the kids and lots of stalls put on by people in the local community selling their local wares. The market was also buzzing.

"It was the first time the Black Country Festival has had an event on Brierley Hill High Street. It was organised by the festival in conjunction with Dudley Council. This was all about bringing the town back to life and allow the High Street to flourish. It was attended by the local community and run by the local community."

Asked about this year's Black Country Festival was going, Mr Edwards said: "This year has been the best year ever. We are seeing great attendances at all our events and it just seems to be getting better and better."

Floating

Meanwhile, there will be more fun in Brierley Hill this weekend when the 'floating market' returns.

The Merry Hill Floating Market will run along the canal embankment between Greens Bridge and Daniels Land Bailey Bridge from tomorrow (Friday) to next Monday.

Police seeking axeman

THIS man, pictured right, was being sought by police after allegedly attacking a reveller with an axe on Stourbridge High Street.

The suspect's photo was taken in a pub shortly before a fight broke out outside.

Police officers investigating the incident say that the suspect left the premises and then returned armed with an axe, before attacking someone with the weapon. The victim's injuries were not known.

West Midlands Police said the suspect was spotted running along Stourbridge High Street with an axe as revellers left local pubs.

The force said that it had recovered the axe following the violence, which happened at around 12.50am on April 23.

Anyone with further information on the violent incident, or who knows the identity of the man in the picture, is urged to call police officers on the non-emergency 101 number, quoting crime number 20DY/106326C/17.

Information can also be left anonymously by calling the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111 or searching for the crimestoppers-uk.org website.



Man sought by police

Liam is first winner in tribute to Joseph



Guitarist Liam Cook with Joseph Tennant's parents, Claire and Paul, and Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College

A YOUNG musician has become the first winner of a college award launched in memory of a former student.

Stourbridge College student Liam Cook was presented with the Joseph Tennant Award for outstanding achievement. The 18-year-old guitarist was chosen after making exceptional progress on his music performance course. Liam, who plans to continue his studies at university,

hopes of achieving his dream of working in the music industry. He, said: "I've been playing guitar since I was nine. It's a huge honour to win this award"

The Joseph Tennant Award was set up this year in memory of the Stourbridge College music student killed in a car accident in Bristol four months after completing his course in November 2015.

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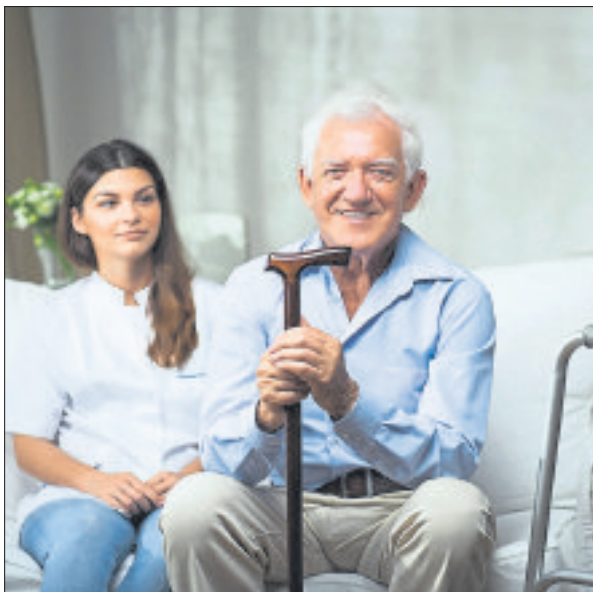
Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service

person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

Contact Dudley Home Improvement Service on 0300 555 0055.

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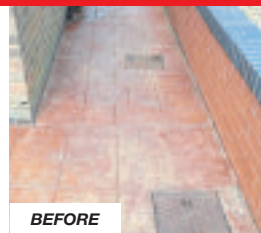


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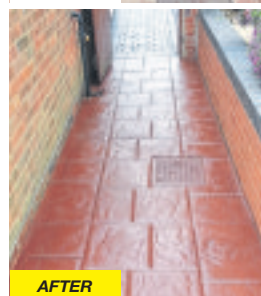
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Betty celebrates 105th birthday

SHE was born in the year that the Titanic sunk and survived two world wars. And this week Netherton-born Betty Sophia Jones has celebrated reaching her 105th birthday.

Betty marked the occasion with a party with fellow residents and careers at Nelson House care home, in Dudley, and was visited by her nephew David Homer.

Mr Homer, 66, who is Betty's only close living relative, described her as a woman who was dedicated to her family, a keen church goer who took joy from helping others.

She was one of six siblings, having four sisters and a brother.

Police must improve phone responses, says commissioner

POLICE chiefs in the West Midlands have been told they need to make a 'huge improvement' in their response to calls to the 101 non-emergency number.

The region's Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the fact nearly 400,000 calls to the number were not answered last year is 'not acceptable'.

Mr Jamieson said he recognised the force was 'under pressure' from an 'unprecedented' level of calls but their performance had to improve.

The force says 90 per cent of call handlers are now trained to deal with 999 and 101 – the remaining 10 per cent are either on maternity leave or on long-term sick.

Officer and staff attendance is below the 97 per cent target, currently at 89 per cent for officers and 92 per cent for civilian staff.

Half of those off sick are on long-term sick leave with the majority suffering from stress or anxiety.

Mr Jamieson said: "Staff are under pressure from the huge levels of demand. Eighty-four per cent of 999 emergency calls are answered within 10 seconds.

"I want that to improve further and reach the expected levels. It is an important service and it needs to improve."

More nurses at two hospitals

NEARLY 100 nurses are set to be taken on by a hospital trust to bring a much-needed boost to staffing levels.

Nurses could start work at Sandwell and City Hospitals within weeks after job offers were made at a recruitment event.

A total of 95 conditional offers were made after 110 people were interviewed.

Trust chiefs have been battling to get the number of vacancies down at its two hospitals.

At the start of the year there were more than 200 nursing positions available, while bosses have also targeted spending less on agency staff.

MP visits outstanding pre-school



Stourbridge MP Margot James recently visited St Michael's Christian Pre-School in Norton

A PRE-SCHOOL in Stourbridge has been described as inspirational by Ofsted inspectors who have rated it as outstanding.

St Michael's Christian Pre-School in Norton has received a glowing report from the education watchdog after inspectors visited the premises in Maynard Avenue.

In a summary of key findings, inspector Julia Galloway said 'leadership is inspirational' and staff 'meticulously plan for all areas of learning.' It says 'children benefit from a vibrant and stimulating environment.'

Pre-school manager Sally Collins said: "Margot James MP for Stourbridge recently visited and congratulated the pre-school on its outstanding Ofsted report for the inspection in June 2017.

"She visited the setting, which is facilitated by St. Michael's Church, to meet staff

and volunteers to discuss the sustainability of such pre-schools and issues about future funding for Early Years provision.

"The visit was much appreciated by all those who spoke to Margot, who was impressed with the facilities."

The pre-school, which takes children aged two to four, has 36 youngsters on roll and it employs nine members of childcare staff.

Its latest rating is an improvement on its last inspection in 2015 when it was rated good. Other areas praised included behaviour of children which was described as 'exceptional' and it said "staff develop close bonds with children and they are highly tuned into the emotional well-being of each child."

The report added: 'Healthy foods and physical activities are part of the daily routine.'

Beer we go! Drinks are on Baggies chief

HARDCORE Albion fans in Hong Kong have plenty to cheer after being taken to the pub by 'down-to-earth' chairman John Williams.

The Albion chief enjoyed a drink and even picked up the tab for nearly 50 supporters at The Queen Victoria Pub, in Wan Chai, before giving each fan a replica shirt – some of which were match-worn and signed.

However, he suffered a shock when one supporter ordered a bottle of Bollinger champagne on his tab.

Baggies chairman Williams also hired a bus to take the supporters to training to meet their heroes and watch Tony Pulis drill the squad ahead of the match with Crystal Palace, which the London club won 2-0.

It was a gesture that went down well with those who had travelled nearly 6,000 miles to see the Baggies in the Premier League Asia Trophy.

Supporter David James said: "Folk have come a long way and at considerable cost to follow their team, so the fact it is acknowledged and appreciated, it means a lot. The chairman put his credit card behind the bar but I won't repeat what he said when I ordered a bottle of Bollinger."

When Williams first arrived at the club last August he promised to be a more 'fan-friendly' chairman than predecessor Jeremy Peace. The former Blackburn Rovers chief said: "The supporters are the lifeblood of the club and the very least they can expect when they display such devotion at such expense is the chance to have a drink and chat with those of us privileged to work inside the club."

The Baggies lost their Premier League Asia Trophy semi-final 7-6 on penalties to Leicester City.

Travel pass swift move

THOUSANDS of children across the West Midlands will see their travel passes move on to the Swift card next month.

They will make the switch following work by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to put paper tickets on to the smart-card platform.

Around 6,000 young people whose paper travel cards are currently supplied through the TfWM and National Express West Midlands direct debit schemes will be issued Swift cards from August 27.

Wolverhampton councillor Roger Lawrence, lead member for transport, said: "This is great news for young people. As well as meaning you never have to worry about having the right change for the bus, these Swift cards are easy to replace if they get lost."

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Ever tried a vintage look in the bathroom?

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE'VE been talking previously about adding some vintage style to various rooms in the home but never before about creating an old-fashioned look in a bathroom.

So this week I thought we would do just that and see what might be available in the saleroom that would be appropriate.

It all depends on personal choice and whether a particular theme is to be adhered to – a seaside or nautical one, for example.

This is very easy to achieve, there are many vintage items that are perfect, from little painted wooden ships to glass “witch balls” (fisherman’s floats).

The ocean “blue and white” theme can be added to with numerous items, from Cornishware storage jars to framed collections of sea shells.

A traditional vintage look works in any bathroom, in older homes and contemporary ones, with pieces fitting in perfectly with the standard modern suites.

It is lovely to be able to incorporate an old roll-top bath but this isn’t always practical as it does tend to take up quite a lot of space.

But the period look can be achieved with a number of other items that can easily be picked up at auction.

Old wooden towel stands (below) are very affordable, and can be painted to fit in with a colour scheme if the wood is scruffy, and swing mirrors look good on a window-ledge.

Free-standing mirrors are great if you have the room and old wash-stand sets fit in with any bathroom design, especially if you have a vintage wash-stand too.

Antique perfume bottles look lovely displayed on a shelf and you can easily pick up old china soap dishes.

Bathroom walls can be very much part of the style theme, look out for vintage mirrors and framed adverts for soap and bath salts (top).

In terms of storage, vintage steamer trunks would be nice for towels and wooden boxes stacked together can be used for smaller items.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, August 1. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.
- New sale bidders are advised to attend the sale-room early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

It’s already time to look to the sales for winter



Mustard yellows with jade blues

IT’S July and most of us have not yet ventured on our summer holidays but the high street clothing stores are preparing for their sales, the end of the summer stock lines and the integration of the autumn/winter styles.

Now is the time to buy your beachwear, bikinis and pretty sundresses. Even if you store them for next year’s good weather (hopefully!) it is worth the shopping trip for bargains.

I’ve never been certain that it is right to begin the sales before our summers or winters are in full swing and most of us have not considered buying our newest wardrobe needs. This only creates more difficulties with brands selling enough product each season and ultimately having to reduce the price and affect their margins and profits. Some designers are considering this and showing their collections at varied times in the season. Benefit while you can!

We are in for a glorious autumn winter season of colours and trends with delightful combinations of colours and prints. Mustard yellows, mixed with deep jades and blues, sable browns, mahogany and dark terracotta,

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



deep dark country forest greens and olives, soft vintage ice cream pinks and burgundies and graphite greys.

Prints have dark backgrounds, influenced by oriental and eastern cultures, topped with dark midnight florals and eerie wilderness prints. Graphic pencil and line drawings, detailed and artistic artwork and graphic broken florals, computer generated and block combinations of colour. In contrast, there will be shiny metallics and high-tech fabrics, cosmic, smart and sensory textured effects.

Sharp tailoring with sleek lines and crisp shoulders, accentuated waists and clever pattern cutting with belts and button detail, skirts or trousers, sombre business colours.

Seventies fine knits and ruffles make a comeback, full sleeve gathered floral blouses, frilly dresses and deep v necklines, flared trouser hems, high waistlines and short fit-

ted jumpers, even collars worn over round necklines.

Soft draping leather, smooth aniline finishes and chamois softness in dresses, skirts, jackets and trousers. Natural colours.

Dresses are the “order of the day” liquid fabrics with fluted hems and smooth shapely cuts, body hugging and delicate.

Coats are continental quilts, oversized and roomy, warm and cosy, wadded and quilted or fluffy and cuddly furs, designed to feel cocooned in comfort.

A strange time to be considering your winter wardrobe, but at least be prepared for the trends that will be on offer and your preferences, there will be something to suit all personalities and body shapes. Let’s hope the good weather lasts a little longer and winter delays it’s entrance but enjoy the excitement of a new season and the clothing choices that offers, buy early to avoid disappointment or wait for the inevitable early sales to enjoy your autumn/winter wardrobe.

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Some people take out loans to meet the costs of making their wedding day special



It can all end happily ever after – if you make moves to keep your costs down

Don’t let rising costs ruin your big wedding day



It’s the day when brides are in the spotlight

BIG bills can ruin your big day – here’s how to not let wedding costs get the better of you.

Wedding season is here again, and while it’s a happy time for couples and their guests, it can also prove very costly.

Here’s how the bills pile up – and how you can make clever cutbacks without it leading to wedding woes.

HOW COSTS MOUNT UP

The average cost of tying the knot is now £8,000, according to a survey of married UK couples from Nationwide Building Society – with 11 per cent splashing out more than £20,000.

With big costs to cover, some couples could be tempted into debt. Website MoneySuperMarket recently said it has seen a jump in people applying for wedding loans – including applications for over £20,000.

Nationwide also puts the average cost of being a wedding guest at around £400 - of which roughly £150 is spent on the stag or the hen party, and £250 goes towards the ceremony itself.

WHAT’S THE FIRST TO GO?

Couples looking to cut the cost of their wedding may want to consider how those who are already married successfully

Report by Liza Radley

trimmed their budgets. Nationwide’s survey found the wedding dress was the most likely item to be “downgraded” to save money, followed by the number of guests, the invitations, the venue and the food.

Many high street stores now sell wedding dresses, or brides on a budget could go for a more vintage look by trawling second hand and charity shops, or auction websites for a bargain.

When it came to the aspects of the wedding most likely to be ditched altogether, canapés came out on top, followed by favours, cars, suit hire and a paid-for bar.

Perhaps for some people, having homemade canapés with a personal touch, rather than ditching them altogether, and swapping champagne for cheaper forms of bubbly, could be a compromise.

WHAT IF YOU CAN’T AVOID GOING INTO DEBT?

If you can’t see any way of avoiding getting into debt, at the very least it’s important to compare loans to get the best deal.

Kevin Pratt, a consumer affairs expert at MoneySuperMarket, says: “As with any borrowing, it’s also wise to set a schedule following the wedding to make sure you can repay it in good time.”

COUPLES TRY TO KEEP GUESTS’ COSTS DOWN

While trying to keep a tight rein on their own budgets, nearly two-thirds (63 per cent) of brides and grooms actively consider how to reduce costs for guests, according to research from American Express. It found the top three ways brides and grooms try to reduce costs are: choosing a venue within a close distance to family and friends to reduce travel costs, selecting a stag or hen do that won’t be too pricey, and asking guests not to buy gifts.

HOW THE COSTS FOR GUESTS CAN BE EASED FURTHER

Here are some tips from American Express for couples planning a cost-conscious wedding for their guests:

:: Alert international guests early. Once you know the date, ensure any guests flying in to attend the wedding know as early as possible, so they can secure the best travel deals.

:: Negotiate room deals. Many accommodation providers will provide a discount on rooms if you make a block booking.

:: Consider the venue carefully. If you don’t want your guests to break the bank, look at the price of drinks your venue is providing to ensure there are some budget-friendly options.

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From Corrie star to Queen Of Hearts

She used to be the Queen of the Street. But now Corrie star Wendi Peters – aka Cilla Battersby – is the Queen of Hearts. Following sold-out seasons across the globe, the multi Grammy and Drama Desk Award-nominated Wonderland has received its UK and European première.

A new British production, which visits Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday until August 5, stars Wendi as the Queen Of Hearts.

It also features leading musical theatre star Dave Willetts as the White Rabbit, with We Will Rock You & Britain's Got Talent's Rachael Wooding as Alice.

Wendi says: "My job as an actress is to be creative. I just love the process of reading something off the page and thinking through how I'm going to best tell the story. I don't like doing anything for too long – I played Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street for four years, the longest time I've ever worked on the same role. It got to that point where I wasn't doing anything different and I knew I needed to create something new and get back out there to do theatre again, where I'd learnt my craft."

"People would watch me on TV four times a week and think that's all I could do, but they perhaps didn't realise that for 15 years before Coronation Street I'd been in musical theatre – it's lovely to go back to my roots and have a good old sing every night."

THRILLED

The music in Wonderland is one of Wendi's most favoured aspects. And she's thrilled to be lining up alongside David, the Birmingham-born singer and actor who left his job as a quality control supervisor at an engineering firm to pursue his dream of being a star.

David went on to feature in the West End in Les Misérables, in the lead role of Jean Valjean, before joining the Broadway cast. He then succeeded Michael Crawford in Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Phantom of the Opera, at Her Majesty's Theatre. Wendi loves the musical element of Wonderland.

She says: "The music is just amazing. Wonderland has a wonderful score by Frank Wildhorn with great vocals from everybody in the cast. There's music from every genre, there's rock, pop, pure musical theatre, boyband and even a bit of classical, there's something for every age. There's a modern twist on it – our Alice is 40 now and she has a teenage daughter, once she's back in Wonderland you meet all the familiar characters you know and love. There is the twist of the Looking Glass, anybody could change at any point."

"For this production we had nothing really to copy and that's lovely. I don't think that any actor should ever copy what's been before, but of course if the material's out there you're

The ex-Corrie actress stars alongside David Willetts



Wonderful tonight – Wendi stars in Wonderland



going to have a sneaky look at what's been done previously. Apart from a performance by the Broadway cast at the Tony Awards there's little else of Wonderland online and I love that because I can think through the character myself and be my best interpretation of the role and hopefully bring something new to it."

She found her way into the role of Queen of Hearts, taking inspiration from a number of sources. However, given that the British play is a UK first, she was able to create the role from scratch. And she's hoping local audiences will enjoy her portrayal – even though eating so many jam tarts has been no good for her waistline.

"With the Queen Of Hearts, there are so many different versions of her. The one that always stands out for me is the Disney film and that's probably the image that springs to mind for most

I do a lot of shouting, sing a bit and eat three jam tarts every show

people. There's a little bit of myself in my characterisation and I think that for any actor, to play the role truthfully there must be a little bit of their own self in the character."

"As the Queen Of Hearts, I do a lot of shouting, sing a few numbers and eat three jam tarts every show. By the time we get to Wolverhampton we'll have done about 200 shows, so I'll have eaten 600 jam tarts."

"It's always fun to play the baddie, but you must find something within them that does make people like them a little bit. I'd like to think that there will be a little bit of all my comedy heroes in my Queen Of Hearts. I love Molly Sugden, Peggy Mount and Patricia Routledge who played Hyacinth 'Bouquet' Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances – you can't help but love Hyacinth, she's a monster but part you that says 'oh isn't she wonderful.'"

WONDERLAND is now on sale at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for performances between 31 July – 5 August 2017. Tickets from www.grandtheatre.co.uk.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

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A scene from Miss Saigon



The heat is on for summer blockbuster Miss Saigon

The first time you see Miss Saigon, I guarantee it will be etched on your heart forever. It's completely and utterly unforgettable.

Music is by the incomparable team, Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, while lyrics are by Alain and Richard Maltby Jr. It came hot on the heels of the team's epic musical phenomenon Les Misérables when it premiered in the 1980s, and 30 years on is still filling theatres, writes Alison Norton.

Miss Saigon is based on Puccini's Madame Butterfly, and tells the tragic love story of a teenage Vietnamese girl and an American GI who meet during the Vietnam war. In this production of Miss Saigon,

The Engineer, who is essentially a pimp, is played by Red Concepcion, an engaging actor from the Philippines. "This is my first show in Europe and in the UK, which is very exciting!" he says. "The Engineer is nasty but funny and charming in his own way."

A highlight in the show is a life-sized helicopter, which lands and then takes off again on stage. I saw it on the day I visited the cast at one of their technical rehearsal days in Leicester. Spoiler alert! Let's just say you hear it before you see it and the effect is nothing short of chilling. It's one of the most incredible special affects you will ever see in theatre.

Catch Miss Saigon at Birmingham Hippodrome, it is on now and continues until September 23. Visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Pinch me, I'm so lucky to get this role



He's a platinum-selling recording artist, actor, producer, author and ambassador for the Prince's Trust. Darius Campbell is a man of many talents.

He is currently touring the UK with Funny Girl The Musical, which brings the former Pop Idol finalist to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until its final performance in the city on Saturday night. He is leading man Nick Arnstein starring alongside Natasha J Barnes as Fanny Brice.

"Funny Girl is such a pleasure, we opened in London and now

we're touring with Natasha. It is the number one romantic musical comedy of all time – and I get to be the leading man, so pinch me. I get to do it again 18 months on and we're still performing to standing ovations. I'm very lucky.

"We've got some of the best music and maybe the best songs of the last 70 years. The show is 50 years old and it hasn't been performed here since the original with Barbara Streisand which shot her to fame. They made a film of it that won five Academy Awards."

Campbell came to fame through reality TV, though he's long since outgrown those roots.

"It's been 17 years since my original audition for Pop Idol and 15 years since my single Colourblind went to number one in the charts."

"It was 2005 when I first stepped into the West End, as Billy Flynn in Chicago and since then I've got to work with my musical theatre heroes, Sir Trevor Nunn, Sir Tim Rice and take the lead in musicals that I've loved being part of, stories that are classic, the leading man romantic stories such as Gone With The Wind, Guys And Dolls and From Here To Eternity. Funny Girl is the jewel in the crown of musicals."

Beverley to star in her first panto

Beverley Knight will perform in her first-ever pantomime this year at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The 44-year-old actress and singer from Wolverhampton will take on the role of The Fairy Godmother in Cinderella. Other stars set to take part in the show are Strictly Come Dancing's Danny Mac, Hippodrome favourite funnyman Matt Slack, comedians The Grumbleweeds, Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall. Playing Cinderella will be Suzanne Shaw, formerly of pop group Hear'Say.



Young musicians are set to impress

More than 100 remarkable musicians are set to impress at Birmingham's Town Hall next Sunday afternoon (August 6), and they are all aged under 12. The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, which run six national age-banded orchestras and six regional youth orchestras, are bringing their under-12s to the prestigious venue for a performance of great classical works.

Led by conductor Natalia Luis-Bassa, the young musicians will present a programme including Mars from Holst's The Planets, Finlandia by Sibelius, Montagues and Capulets from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, music from Bizet's Carmen and the energetic Conga del Fuego Nuevo by Marquez. Tickets start from £18 for the 3.30pm concert. For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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Casualty
(BBC1, 9.05pm)
Paul Unwin, the man who co-created Casualty back in 1986, returns as a guest writer for an episode that covers the span of an hour within Holby's Emergency Department. Duffy has her hands full as she is shadowed by a pair of school-girls planning to enter the medical profession, and Jez is crippled by guilt after he manages to rescue a woman from a house fire, but did not realise he saved her at the expense of her baby. Meanwhile, Ethan throws himself into his work following the incident with Scott, and when the ailing leader of a marching band arrives feeling unwell, Louise is forced to leave him in triage, with disastrous consequences. Last in the series.

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Hull FC v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Film: Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit. (1993) A singer who once posed as a nun joins the order again to help save a Catholic school by making a success of its choir. Comedy sequel, starring Whoopi Goldberg.
6.45 BBC News.
6.55 Regional Programme.
7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Sports stars Willie Thorne, Tony Jacklin, Andy Fordham, Deta Hedman, Tessa Sanderson, Derek Redmond, Nick Easter and Martin Offiah take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)
7.50 Would I Lie to You? Clara Amfo, Tom Davis, Shaun Ryder and Henning Wehn help team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack deceive their opponents with plausible lies. Hosted by Rob Brydon. (R)
8.20 Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.
9.05 Casualty. Duffy guides a pair of school-girls through an average hour in the ED, in a special episode of the medical drama written by Casualty co-creator Paul Unwin. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist teams up with a rebellious teenager who draws him into a search in the Amazon jungle for a mysterious artefact of untold power. But their quest is hindered by Soviet agents, who also want the fabled object for an altogether more sinister purpose. Action adventure sequel, updating the series to a Cold War setting, starring Harrison Ford.
12.15 Film: When in Rome. (2009) An unlucky-in-love woman steals coins from a supposedly magical fountain in Italy and attracts a host of potential suitors. Romantic comedy, with Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2
6.10 The Deep. **6.30** The Deep. **6.55** Film: Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo. (1977) **8.35** Film: Mars Needs Moms. (2011) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. (R) **1.00** Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R) **2.00** Mastermind. (R) **2.30** University Challenge. (R) **3.00** Only Connect. (R) **3.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Jessica Ennis-Hill and the Next Generation. **5.00** Live Swimming: World Championships.
6.00 Cycling: Women's Grand Prix. Live coverage of the Prudential RideLondon Classique, which takes place on a 5.5km circuit in central London, taking in some of the city's most famous landmarks.
6.50 Proms Extra. Katie Derham revisits Walton's Facade from the Malcolm Sargent Prom, and celebrates the work of British composer Scott Walker. Plus, David Owen Norris' Chord of the Week.
7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul Murton travels round the Isle of Arran, visiting the famous King's Cave, Lochranza, Brodick Castle and Kildonan before ending his trip at Cleat's Shore. (R)
8.00 Dad's Army. Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. (R)
8.30 All Families Have Secrets - Patrick Gale's Art of Fiction. Patrick Gale speaks to Stephen Fry about his experience of being an out gay writer for the past 30 years, and the inspiration behind Man in an Orange Shirt, his screenwriting debut.
9.00 Queer as Art. The BBC's Gay Britannia season continues, as artists, writers, musicians and performers discuss the LGBT community's contributions to the arts in Britain during the past 50 years.
10.00 QI XL. Panelists Julia Zimiro, Matt Lucas and David Mitchell and Alan Davies compete, as host Stephen Fry hosts an expanded edition of the comedy quiz show.
10.45 Imagine - Mapplethorpe. A portrait of American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.
12.40 Film: Sleep Tight. (2011) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV
6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventure. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Go's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meeting from Ascot. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots USA.
6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.05 ITV News: Weather.
6.15 You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! Harry Hill presents another hour-long edition of his popular programme, showcasing embarrassing home-videos and malfunctioning monitors, filmed and submitted by loyal viewers. Clips feature flatulent selfies, misused contraceptives and a rather distracting wedding guest. (R)
7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, inviting contestants Steve, Charlene and Lenny to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in clues offered by Mr Chips and his state-of-the-art 3D graphic animations. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, with a holiday and a massive £50,000 cash sum up for grabs.
8.00 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. (2013) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally continue the quest to reclaim their lost kingdom, journeying through the forest home of ancestral enemy the elves and finally facing the dragon that drove them from their home. Meanwhile, Gandalf the wizard investigates the rise of a mysterious dark power. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage and Orlando Bloom.
11.00 ITV News: Weather.
11.25 The Chase. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4
6.40 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** London Triathlon. **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Big House, Little House. **5.30** Channel 4 News.
6.00 Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the qualifying session at the Hungaroring in Budapest, where the drivers battled for pole position ahead of the 11th round of the season. It was the Mercedes drivers who performed best in qualifying at this track last season, with the now-retired Nico Rosberg claiming pole position, and Lewis Hamilton one place behind in second on the starting grid.
7.30 UEFA Women's Euro 2017. Coverage of a quarter-final match (Kick-off TBA), featuring teams that were drawn in Groups A and B, as the competition staged in the Netherlands continues. The team to emerge victorious from this match will progress to one of the semi-finals, which are due to take place on Thursday. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.
10.00 Film: 47 Ronin. (2013) A former slave leads a band of samurai as they battle monstrous and magical enemies in a quest for redemption. Fantasy adventure, with Keanu Reeves and Hiroyuki Sanada.
12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay visits a restaurant in Providence, Rhode Island. (R) **1.00** The Last Leg. Comedy legend John Cleese joins Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker for a comical review of the week. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace prepares to take down her and Warren's blackmailer, Alfie tries to help Lily and Prince, and Sally surprises Neeta with a ticket to Ibiza. **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Helping prospective buyers in Wiltshire. (R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three homeowners in West Sussex compete to sell their homes. (R) **5.40** Shipping Wars UK. Russell moves 15 unique giraffe artworks worth £75,000. (R)

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshake! **9.20** Film: Bob the Builder: Mega Machines. (2017) Premiere. Construction-site animation, with the voice of Lee Ingleby. **10.30** Funniest Guest Kittens Ever. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Film: The Time Machine. (2002) Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce. **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company, but with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the third day's play in the Third Test of the four-match series, which took place at The Oval in London.
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Live Boxing. Coverage from the SSE Arena in Belfast, ahead of the main event between Carl Frampton and Andres Gutierrez.
8.30 FIA Formula E Live. The first Montreal ePrix race. Coverage of the first two races staged at the Montreal Street Circuit, which serves as the 11th and penultimate round of the season. This is a brand new circuit set in the centre of the Canadian city, and features 14 turns in a lap that is 2.75km long.
10.10 Live Boxing. Carl Frampton v Andres Gutierrez. Coverage of the featherweight bout from SSE Arena in Belfast, as The Jackal returns to the ring for the first time since losing his world title.
12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.05** Film: Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans. (2009) Crime drama, starring Nicolas Cage. **5.00** Great Artists. Spanish painter Velazquez. (R) **5.25** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL
BBC Four
7.00 The Secret Life of Rockpools **8.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.30** Rich Hall's Countrier Than You **1.00** Bob Harris: My Nashville **2.00** The Secret Life of Rockpools **3.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.25 Take Me Out **12.35** Catchphrase: Celebrity Special **1.40** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **5.05** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.10** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** Film: The Hangover (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Hangover (2009) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.00** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.30 Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1969) **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** On the Buses **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 The Professionals **1.05** Minder **3.15** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **6.00** Better Late Than Never **7.00** Master Carp **8.00** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.50** Film: The Book of Eli (2010) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00** Film: The Book of Eli (2010) **12.05** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **2.05** Road Racing Series **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.40 Film: Astro Boy (2009) **1.30** Film: Toy Story of TERROR! (2013) **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: This Is 40 (2012) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Gogglebox **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Bollywood Queen (2002) **1.00** A Monster in Paris (2011) **2.45** Baby's Day Out (1994) **4.35** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **7.00** The Way Way Back (2013) Comedy drama, starring Liam James. **9.00** The Green Mile (1999) **12.40** As Above, So Below (2014) **2.25** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Aidan Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
Ross is determined to ensure that George loses in the election, and resolves to make up for some of Trenwith's neglect - he also becomes aware of Hugh's feelings for Demelza as he returns to Nampara to find them together. George is consumed with paranoia as he challenges Dwight over Valentine's legitimacy and drives Elizabeth away. Rowella attempts to seduce Whitworth, who receives advice from Dwight over his relationship with Morwenna, Lord Falmouth learns that the Warleggans will be standing against him, and Sam pines over Emma.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Cycling: Ride London. **12.00** Bargain Hunt: (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Cycling: Ride London. Live coverage of the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Wild Alaska Live. Liz Bonnin, Matt Baker and Steve Backshall conclude the coverage of Alaskan wildlife during the summer. The programme features footage of black bear cubs trying to catch enough food to make it through the winter, wolves competing with brown bears for the best fishing positions, orcas and humpback whales gathering at sea, and eagles hunting as the salmon complete their migration. Last in the series. **8.00** Countryfile. A look at green spaces and wildlife in urban areas. Anita Rani visits a haven for animals in Stoke Newington, and helps an urban photographer track a pair of nesting common terns. Sean Fletcher joins Manchester airport's environment team, James Wong meets Liverpool residents growing vegetables on their roofs, Tom Heap investigates air pollution, and Adam Henson meets former services personnel rebuilding their lives through farming. **9.00** Poldark. Ross becomes aware of Hugh's feelings for Demelza, George is consumed with paranoia as he challenges Dwight over Valentine's legitimacy and drives Elizabeth away. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** The Heroes of Super Saturday: Jess, Mo & Greg. Michael Johnson takes a look back at the day of competition known as "Super Saturday" at the 2012 Olympic Games, focusing on Jessica Ennis-Hill, Mo Farah and Greg Rutherford. **11.30** Film: The Peacemaker. (1997) Two mismatched government operatives are forced to put aside their differences to find a stolen cache of nuclear warheads. Action thriller, with George Clooney. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.50** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Film: Miss Potter. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter falls in love while trying to find a publisher for her work. Biographical period drama, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v Salford Red Devils (Kick-off 2.30pm). Tanya Arnold presents coverage of the second semi-final, which takes place at Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington. **4.30** Live Swimming: World Championships. Helen Skelton presents coverage of the eighth and final day from Danube Arena in Budapest, Hungary, which will include the finals of the men's and women's 400m individual medley. **7.00** World War One Remembered: Passchendaele. Kirsty Young introduces live coverage from Flanders, Belgium, of the ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War battle. This is followed by a dramatic event staged in Ypres that tells the story of the battle and those involved in it, as well as performances from Alfie Boe, War Horse and the cast of The Wipers' Times. Dan Snow reports from the streets of Ypres. **10.00** Film: Pride. (2014) Gay rights activists gather in London for a pride march in 1984, and decide they have a common cause with the miners' strike. When their fundraising activities are rejected by the miners' union, they travel to a Welsh pit village to show their support in person. Fact-based drama, starring Ben Schnetzer, Bill Nighy, Andrew Scott and Imelda Staunton. **11.50** Film: Lifting. (2014) The mother and boyfriend of a dead man form a connection as they deal with their grief, despite having no language in common. Drama, with Ben Whishaw and Pei-pai Cheng. **1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven visits a conservation project for great bustards in Salisbury Plain, while Anita Rani meets contestants in the international young beekeepers' competition. (R) **2.10** Holly City. Drama series charting life on the wards of Holby City Hospital. (R) **3.10** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.55** Rebound. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **2.55** Bear Grylls Survival School. **3.25** Film: A View to a Kill. (1985) James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry talk about their mother Diana, Princess of Wales, and pay tribute to the many ways her influence has shaped their lives. The brothers share some of their earliest memories of her, recall the final contact they had with her before her death in August 1997, and discuss their feelings in the aftermath of that event. Featuring contributions from Elton John, Rihanna and Diana's brother, Earl Spencer. (R) **8.00** Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Gary Oldman. **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines real-life cases, looking at the events leading up to crimes, going through the police investigations and summing up the trials. (R) **11.50** Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Last Man Standing. **6.45** Last Man Standing. **7.10** Last Man Standing. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **3.40** Homes by the Sea. (R) **4.45** Channel 4 News. **5.15** Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights. **7.30** UEFA Women's Euro 2017. Coverage of a quarter-final match (Kick-off TBA), featuring teams that were drawn in Groups C and D, as the competition staged in the Netherlands continues. The team to emerge victorious from this match will progress to one of the semi-finals, which are due to take place on Thursday. Subsequent programmes are subject to change. **10.00** The Handmaid's Tale. Janine is sentenced to a brutal punishment for her acts of disobedience, which leaves Offred and her fellow Handmaids faced with an unthinkable choice. Last in the series. **11.10** Naked Attraction. Anna Richardson hosts as 22-year-old Sophie seeks a conversational man, while 25-year-old Dom hopes to find a confident, daring and adventurous man. (R) **12.15** Film: Moonrise Kingdom. (2012) The inhabitants of an island community are thrown into a panic as they search for two runaway children. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, with Bruce Willis and Edward Norton. **1.50** 60 Days in Jail. Criminal justice student Dion is the last volunteer to enter the jail. (R) **2.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Featuring highlights of bouts in England, Russia, Mexico and the United States. **3.05** Gillette World Sport. Including a look at how New England Patriots' Devin McCourty stays in top condition. **3.30** Mobil 1 The Grid. Max Verstappen provides a tour of the Red Bull factory in Milton Keynes. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit the south-east of England to help a family of five in need of a larger property, and new parents searching for a home. (R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps three homeowners in Worthing compete to sell their properties to potential buyers Diane, including mother and daughter Jo and Ruby who improve their attic. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Poppy Cat. **6.25** Mr Men. **6.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.50** Wissper. (R) **6.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.20** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.30** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Wissper. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Film: Fireman Sam: Heroes of the Storm. (2014) **10.30** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **2.30** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **4.25** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2. (2005) **6.05** Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family-friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R) **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the Third Test of the four-match series, which took place at The Oval in London. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence. **9.00** 5 News Update. **9.05** Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Concluded. Edited for language and violence. **10.05** The Dirty Dancing Story. A 30th anniversary celebration of the movie phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set and hearing from the supporting cast and crew. (R) **11.35** Premiership Rugby Sevens. Action from the pre-season tournament at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton, which saw all 12 Premiership clubs compete in a revamped version of the tournament. **12.35** FIA Formula E: Highlights. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector Abroad. (R) **4.00** The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Laura Mvula on Nina Simone **7.30** BBC Proms 2017 **11.30** Norman Wisdom: His Story **12.30** Horizon: 10 Things You Need to Know About the Future **1.30** Beautiful Thing: A Passion for Porcelain **2.30** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **3.30** Laura Mvula on Nina Simone **4.00** Close
ITV2
1.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.30** Film: The Waterboy (1998) **2.30** FYI Daily: 2.35 Film: The Waterboy (1998) **3.20** FYI: Yogi Bear (2010) **4.20** FYI Daily: 4.25 Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **4.55** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.55** FYI Daily: 6.00 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.50** Film: Step Up (2006) **7.55** FYI Daily: 8.00 Film: Step Up (2006) **9.00** Love Island: The Reunion **10.35** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Bachelorette (2012) **1.30** FYI Daily: 1.35 Film: Bachelorette (2012) **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.45 The Darling Buds of May **12.50** Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **3.45** May the Best House Win
ITV4
6.00 Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.00** Football Rivalries **7.15** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.20** FYI Daily: 8.25 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00** Film: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **10.05** FYI Daily: 10.10 Film: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **10.50** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.50** FYI Daily: 11.55 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **1.00** Car Crash Global **2.00** Minder **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Binky & JP's Baby: Born in Chelsea **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** New Girl **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Film: The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **10.00** Film: The Change-Up (2011) **12.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **1.20** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **2.25** Gogglebox
Film4
11.00 Flight of the Navigator (1986) **1.00** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) **3.05** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.45** The Return of the Musketeers (1989) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.40** The Family (2013) **12.55** Devil's Knot (2013) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
I Am Bolt, BBC1, 8.30pm
Documentary about the life and career of world-record breaking Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, who has won the 100m and 200m gold medals at the last three Olympics. The film follows him as he prepares for the Rio 2016 Olympics and there is archive footage of his personal life and from his athletics career. (2016)

TUESDAY
A Trace of Danger, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A defence attorney represents her high-school boyfriend, who stands accused of murdering his wife. As they discover they still have feelings for each other, the lawyer faces being a public hate figure as everyone is convinced of her client's guilt – while someone is determined to stop the truth being discovered. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier. (2010)



Old School, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Man Up, BBC2, 9pm
While traveling across London to attend a party to celebrate her parents' 10th wedding anniversary, a thirtysomething single woman is mistaken for a recently divorced stranger's blind date, so decides to spend a chaotic evening with him. However, she has to face the consequences when he realises she is not his intended blind date. Romantic comedy, starring Lake Bell and Simon Pegg. (2015)

THURSDAY
Out of Reach, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A woman faces having her family torn apart when her husband enters into a business arrangement with two lifestyle coaches, only to end up joining their cult of followers. She struggles to get him away from their influence, but the conflict grows more serious when the sect tries to gain custody of her daughter. Thriller, starring Erin Klarup and Lochlyn Munro. (2013)

FRIDAY
Old School, BBC1, 11.05pm
A lawyer decides to relive the wild, crazy days of his youth after his girlfriend is unfaithful, and enlists the help of two equally disillusioned friends in setting up a fraternity house next to his former college campus. Comedy, starring Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (2003)

Patrick is hoping that his new project is a novel success

Patrick Gale is the BBC's man of the moment. On Saturday, he was interviewed by Stephen Fry, a self-confessed fan of Gale's novels for the past 30 years.

During their chat, Gale discussed being a rare example of an out gay novelist during his early years as a writer, as well as his most ambitious project to date, Man in an Orange Shirt.

This two-part drama is Gale's first screenplay, and while he has always mined his family history for his work, this time he dug deeper than ever before, to expose a secret about his parents' marriage.

The story focuses on two love affairs, 60 years apart. The first is set in 1944, during which British Army Captain Michael Berryman falls for artist Thomas March following a chance meeting in southern Italy.

Despite having a young fiancée, the usually strait-laced Michael throws himself into a relationship with Thomas, and they briefly live as

a couple after the war. Thomas paints his lover's portrait – the titular Man in an Orange Shirt – before Michael decides to return to Flora and live a conventional life as a married man and father.

Thomas, meanwhile, embarks on a risky existence as a gay man in 1940s Soho. But will either of them be truly happy again? And at what lengths will Flora go to keep her new family together?

The story then moves to the present day, as an ageing Flora witnesses her grandson's tentative relationship with another man is a far more accepting world. However, their path to happiness is still littered with potential pitfalls.

"Man In An Orange Shirt is the most exciting project I've worked on to date: an original drama exploring strands of gay male experience since the 1940s," says Gale. "It has been such a privilege to be given such an open brief and then allowed to run with it."

"I don't want to give too much away but after much experimenting,

we've ended up with two hour-long films – one set in the 1940s and 50s, one set in the violently contrasted present; one depicting a love story made impossible by pressures from society, one a love story nearly derailed by the long-term fallout from the 1940s story."

He adds: "People who know my novels will be unsurprised to hear that that stories give equal focus to wives and mothers and are very much about tensions between family bonds, the need to be good and the urge to seize happiness. I hope they'll appeal equally to straight and gay viewers, but also that they'll leave either side feeling challenged about things they take for granted."

"Already I can see that the look of the show is going to be incredible. Here's hoping it starts a national conversation."

It promises to be an enthralling and moving series, one that benefits from a strong cast that includes Vanessa Redgrave and Joanna Vanderham as Flora at different stages in her life.



Man in an Orange Shirt, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

food historian Dr Annie Gray and social historian Emma Dabiri, the sweet-makers head to Blists Hill, Shropshire, to experience first-hand the life of confectioners in late 19th and early 20th century England. The team recreate a range of Victorian treats to stock their sweet shop, from jars of boiled sweets to their own version of fruit pastilles, and an enormous Easter egg. Last in the series.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm

Emma Willis is the latest to take part in the popular genealogy documentary, in which famous faces trace their family trees. The TV presenter, who considers herself a true Brummie, is keen to learn more about her family in Birmingham, tracing back to Victorian times and her hard-working ancestor James Grettton, a local merchant. The Big Brother host then learns that her father's



Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

TUESDAY
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch Channel 5, 9pm

New series. As one door closes, another one opens. Just seven days after Channel 5 crowned its latest Big Brother winner, it reopens the house to make way for a fresh batch of contestants – but this time, of course, the new reality residents are all famous faces. Cue a roll call of soap actors, reality stars and glamour models, with the odd Loose Women presenter and US star thrown in for good measure. As always, Emma Willis introduces each one as they enter, ready to have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. It's to be hoped BB fans don't have anything else planned for the next few weeks.

WEDNESDAY
The Sweet Makers: A Victorian Treat BBC2, 8pm

Four modern confectioners use original recipes to recreate a Victorian sweet shop, and discover how the quest to satisfy our national sweet tooth transformed Britain. Guided by

grandmother was born in Ireland. Surprised to hear of this new line of ancestry, Emma heads across to Dublin to find out more – but she is disturbed by what she learns.

FRIDAY
World Athletics Championships 2017 BBC1, 7pm

Gabby Logan presents coverage of the opening night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which will include the men's 10,000m final, as well as the opening round of heats in the men's 100m and women's 1500m. Great Britain's Mo Farah is expected to compete in the men's 10,000m as he attempts to add to the tally of gold medals he has claimed in this event at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, and the 2015 World Championships. Meanwhile, his compatriot Laura Muir will look to continue the incredible form that saw her win double gold in the 1500m and 3,000m at the European Indoor Championships earlier this year, while the biggest star in athletics, Usain Bolt, will begin his quest for gold in his final appearance at this Championships. With commentary and analysis from Brendan Foster, Andrew Cotter, Steve Cram, Paula Radcliffe, Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis, Colin Jackson, and Steve Backley.

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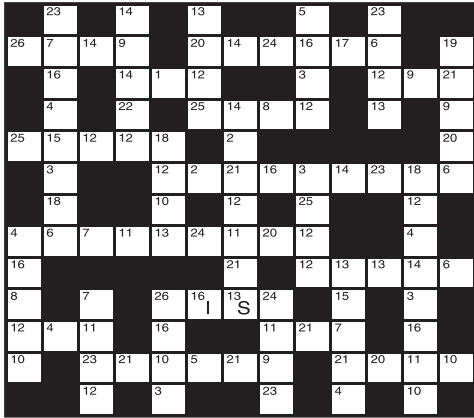
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BRAIN GYM

No.440

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	M	2	Y	3	X	4	O	5	L	6	Z	7	N	8	J	9	R	10	A	11	T	12	V	13	K
14	H	15	G	16	U	17	S	18	Q	19	D	20	P	21	C	22	I	23	E	24	F	25	W	26	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

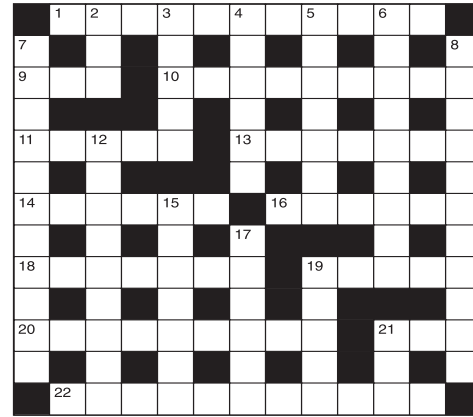
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Pocket money makes very little difference (5,6)
- Joint invitation to cheer (3)
- Took the main course but possibly not a sweet (4,2,3)
- Area measures, out of doors (5)
- Is it for the fleet-footed? (4,3)
- Business concern (6)
- Church worker with grave responsibilities (6)
- Fresh suet not exported (4,3)
- City of legendary character (5)
- A leader of opinion (9)
- Sign held by Cleopatra (3)
- Be confident, sleep is guaranteed (4,7)

Down

- Plan a letter to mother (3)
- Statute has two points that need cutting (5)
- Recent change of heart (6)
- Performer makes a start that is different (7)
- Perhaps most agree it may well be an eyesore (9)
- A cutting response (5,6)
- Bullet that meant goodbye for someone? (7,4)
- Insulting attack (9)
- Decrease one's difficulties (4,3)
- Steps inside? (6)
- Paul and I cooked a foreign dish (5)
- A swimmer comes up for shelter (3)



Quick Clues:

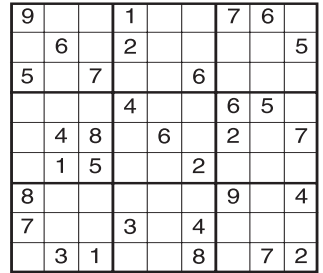
Across

- Solid (11)
- Cereal plant (3)
- Swift (5)
- Flow from (7)
- Option (6)
- Counsel (6)
- Rival (7)
- Tinted (5)
- Hold back (9)
- Marshlands (3)
- Plundering (11)

Down

- Employ (3)
- Inadequate (5)
- Sacred song (6)
- Drinking vessel (7)
- Excitement (9)
- Expertness (11)
- Self-reliant (11)
- Persuasive speech (9)
- Prattle (7)
- Look at (6)
- Dogma (5)
- Distant (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	8	5	6	4	3	9	7	2
3	6	7	9	5	2	8	1	4
2	9	4	8	1	7	5	3	6
6	2	9	5	7	8	3	4	1
4	5	3	2	9	1	7	6	8
7	1	8	3	6	4	2	9	5
9	7	1	4	2	5	6	8	3
8	4	2	7	3	6	1	5	9
5	3	6	1	8	9	4	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Most; 3 Placated; 9 Droplet; 10 Mout; 11 Catty remarks; 13 Ingot; 15 Adhere; 17 Schoofellow; 20 Icing; 21 Patient; 22 Canonise; 23 Rear. Down: 1 Medicine; 2 Stout; 4 Latter; 5 Commandments; 6 Truckle; 7 Duty; 8 Play the organ; 12 Sea water; 14 Uction; 16 Elopes; 18 Liege; 19 Zinc. QUICK - Across: 1 Rage; 3 Treatise; 9 Sparing; 10 Catch; 11 Misinforming; 13 Notify; 15 Allege; 17 Concomitance; 20 Begin; 21 Aconite; 22 Tethered; 23 Heat. Down: 1 Resuming; 2 Glass; 4 Region; 5 Accumulation; 6 Intense; 7 Echo; 8 Significance; 12 Vehement; 14 Thought; 16 Impale; 18 Naive; 19 Abet.

Quiz

- Who was Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures from 1945 to 1973?
- What is a tonka?
- To which family of mammals does the vicuna belong?
- Which planet's year is equivalent to 84 of our years?
- Which country's national assembly is the Cortes?
- In the Arabian Nights, who escapes from the Old Man of the Sea?
- What is the USA's Beaver State?
- What type of tree is the sweet bay?
- What record fee did Manchester United pay for Andy Cole?
- Of which planet is Deimos a moon?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Apollo; 2 Weightlifting; 3 Hydrogen; 4 Tiggy; 5 Pyongyang; 6 Very high frequency; 7 Bronze Age; 8 Anthony Burgess; 9 Parkhurst; 10 Carmen Miranda.
Niner: PARTICLES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

87553
531264
5789

gives a religious man,
gives a religious man,
gives a poet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Remember the old days caravanning with the family, happy times, but would you want to go back to the cramped conditions and trekking across fields in the middle of the night to the washroom? No way!

These days holiday sites and the latest mobile homes are more like being on a cruise ship – minus the sea of course! I recently spent a week in the New Forest area at Hoburne Bashley in a caravan that was sheer luxury. My husband and I admired the countryside as we weaved our way along the roads with the ponies on either side – or sometimes in the middle of the road. Well it is their home after all.

The journey down there had been virtually trouble free in the sunshine and as we opened the door to our new home for the week the outlook got even brighter.

Step inside this top-rated two bedroom mobile home – new for this season – and it is really is home from home with all the mod cons, including a dishwasher, washing machine, TV in each room and a beautifully-finished large lounge.

But the best was yet to come. As I cornered out of the main bedroom to go into the en suite I found a lovely dressing area – something I would love to have at home – are you listening hubby! Combine that with the outside decking area, perfect for eating al fresco or relaxing with a glass of wine, and you can forget the cruise cabin, this suited me just fine.

And there was so much to do on the site – indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, a beautifully

Lovely outdoor pool close to the indoor one



Sheer luxury – lounge area is very spacious



kept nine-hole golf course and plenty more for the little ones, as well as a restaurant on site and evening shows from the very talented entertainments team.

I remember fondly previous holidays at the various Hoburne sites and although this time it was different with no little ones in tow it was lovely in a different way as two good friends joined us for a few days. In fact the company does also offer adult-only holidays but personally I love to see the kids enjoying themselves.

We were lucky to have brilliant weather all week so ventured out to the many places nearby. Bournemouth

is just down the coast. But we headed closer to the site to the lovely towns of Lymington and Ringwood and the nearby beaches. Of course we could not be in the area without visiting the popular Beaulieu Motor Museum, with the earliest motor carriages to classic family saloons, and its sister attraction, the unspoilt haven of Buckler's Hard which remains a 'living' village.

Closer to the site, in fact just down the road in New Milton, is the fascinating Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum, well worth a visit. Don't think that just because you are not an avid biking fan you won't enjoy this as

there are so many other items from across the years on show. On the way to shop at Ringwood we stopped off at the quaint village of Burley and spent a fun afternoon on the murder mystery trail.

The last day, feeling energetic, we hired bikes from The Woods Cyclery in Lyndhurst and headed off through the forest. Back on site my husband went off to get yet MORE golf practice while I enjoyed unwinding in the sauna and jacuzzi. As I said this is the life!

* For details go to www.hoburne.com

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Whole pork shoulders ie pulled pork	£1.39lb	£3.07 per kilo
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5lb packs smoked short back Bacon		£9.99
Whole horse shoe gammons - Danish	£1.99lb	£4.39 per kilo
11lb Chicken Fillets - Additive Free	£22.00	packed in 2s
Extra lean diced beef no fat	£3.48lb	£7.68 per kilo
20 boneless, skinless Cod Fillets		£29.50 per box
5lb Fresh Rump Steaks	£4.99lb	£11.00 per kilo
5lb Fresh Sirloin Steak	£8.99lb	£19.82 per kilo
5lb Fresh Ribeye Steaks	£8.99lb	£19.82 per kilo
Hormone free, Black Angus Grain Fed Beef roasting joints	£2.99	approx 11-14lb £6.60 per kilo
Hormone Free Grain Fed - Salmon Cuts of Beef	£3.60lb	Approx 5lb £7.94 per kilo
Fresh English Spring Lamb Legs	£3.59lb	£7.92 per kilo
Spring Lamb Leg Steaks	£5.99lb	£13.21 per kilo
Spring Lamb Shoulders	£2.99lb	£6.60 per kilo

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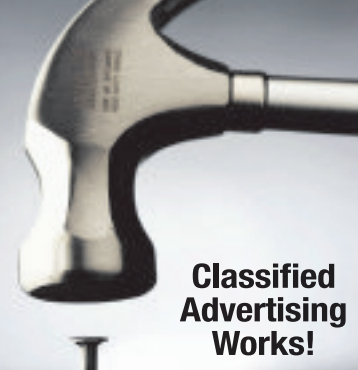
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Ford Ahoy! New Fiesta has landed in United Kingdom

After eight years as Britain's favourite car, Ford Fiesta is passing its sales crown to an all-new model arriving.

The first new Fiesta to be unloaded at the docks was a five-door Titanium with premium B&O PLAY audio, 1.0-litre EcoBoost 100PS engine and eight-inch touch screen connectivity. It was transported to a dealership in Birmingham, where most Fiestas are sold. Across the country, 1,000,000 Brits have ordered new Fiestas since 2008 and over 4,500,000 since the car first arrived in 1976.

Of the 120,000 Fiestas registered in the last 12 months, 70 per cent were five-door models, 90 per cent petrol and 60 per cent Zetec, while 20 per cent chose the Titanium series.

Red, white and blue are three of the four favourite Fiesta colours among patriotic UK customers. Around 22 per cent of new Fiestas are sold in blue, 18 per cent in black, 16 per cent in white, 15 per cent in red and 10 per cent in silver. For the new Fiesta line-up, the Chrome Copper colour pictured plus new Blue Wave and Bohai Mint green shades are among the choices.

The new Ford Fiesta is billed as the most technologically advanced small car on sale thanks to 15 high-tech features ensuring a safe and smooth journey such as Pre-Collision Assist featuring pedestrian detection, meaning that the driver is warned of



The first new Ford Fiesta was transported to a Birmingham dealership

people who are in or near the road ahead, automatic perpendicular parking, blind spot alert and auto high beam.

Andy Barratt, Ford of Britain chairman and managing director, said: "This year the eyes of the car world in our market are on new Fiesta as it takes over the reign as top seller. Having seen all Fiesta models

coming over the next nine months, I'm confident it will remain on top."

Joining the Ford Fiesta's core range of Zetec and Titanium in dealerships this month will be sporty ST-Line and luxurious Vignale models in early autumn, both offering the acclaimed 1.0 EcoBoost 140PS engine, followed by an all-new Active crossover and hot ST in spring next year.

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www.twallford.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Fiesta range are: urban 40.9-80.7 (6.9-3.5), extra urban 67.3-94.2 (4.2-3.0), combined 54.3-88.3 (5.2-3.2). Official CO₂ emissions 118-82g/km.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

*Promotion excludes KA+, Focus RS and Mustang. Test drive a Ford vehicle between the 1st July and 30th of August 2017 and receive an additional £500 customer saving (including VAT) off the Recommended On The Road price of selected new Ford cars or £500 customer saving (excluding VAT) off the Recommended Retail Price of any new Ford Commercial Vehicle, that are contracted and registered between 1st July and 30th August 2017. Promotion at T Wall Garages - Kingswinford. Promotion available to Retail, Privilege, Ambassador and eligible Fleet customers only. The £500 Customer Saving is in addition to all other existing promotions.

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The Fullback is a rather imposing machine

Fiat's take on a rough and ready practical pick-up truck

By James Parker

The Fiat Fullback is based on the popular Mitsubishi L200, and is largely similar in appearance aside from a redesigned front grille.

Customers in the UK who fancy the idea of a pick-up truck with a slightly more stylish badge than its competitors will only be able to specify their Fullback with a double cab configuration, although there is a selection of 2.4-litre diesel engines and transmissions available.

With the Fullback, which draws its name from the key rugby and American football position, Fiat hopes it can muscle its way into the increasingly competitive medium-duty pick-up market, competing against the likes of the Ford Ranger, SsangYong Musso and its sister vehicle, the Mitsubishi L200.

There's no getting around it: the Fullback is a rather imposing thing. Measuring more than five metres in length, it practically dwarfs anything else on the road short of a lorry. That said though, it wears its size rather well. Those with a keen eye will spot the Fullback's familiar L200 profile, as well as its less fussy and more subtly styled front end. Side by side, the Fiat is without a doubt, the better looking of the two.



The Fullback turns heads wherever it goes

As far as image goes, there is a certain amount of coolness to be derived from cruising around in a truck that at times can feel as big as an aircraft carrier.

The Fullback turns heads wherever it goes, largely thanks to just how big it is.

While the Fullback might look rather flashy from the outside, the cabin bears a distinctly utilitarian feel to it. The layout is simple, yet feels solidly put together. As this is a pick-up that will largely appeal to those who spend a great deal of time outdoors, a simple and sturdy interior such as the Fullback's is exactly what is needed.

Being a large pick-up, the Fullback offers passengers a good deal of space inside. Headroom in the front and back seats is abundant, while legroom in the rear, while not amazing, is still plentiful enough to ensure passengers won't get too uncomfortable on longer journeys. There is also a generously sized central storage bin, as well as a couple of cup holders for storing those odd bits and pieces.

The Fullback's load bed is undoubtedly its main party piece, and one of the primary attractions for a vehicle of this nature. It offers a load volume of 1.9 cubic metres and a payload of 1,045kg. Towing shouldn't prove too much of a problem either, as the Fullback is rated to haul up to 3,100kg unbraked.

First things first: you're immediately aware of the Fullback's size the moment you get behind the wheel. You sit high up, with a commanding view of the road around you and a dominating presence. Generally, the Fullback rides well, although it can skip around a touch over slightly uneven road surfaces.

In terms of its controls, the steering is surprisingly light given the nature of the vehicle. Our test model was fitted with a six-speed manual, which for the most part was competent enough. The clutch was light, and the gear change itself didn't require a huge amount of physical exertion, although it was rather woolly.

On the motorway, the truck's boxy nature did give way to a fair bit of wind noise, but this wasn't a huge mark against the Fullback. The 2.4-litre, 178bhp diesel engine pulled well, getting the pick-up up to speed in a fashionable manner. At cruising speed, while it was fairly audible, it wasn't at all intrusive.

We reviewed the mid-level, LX-specification Fullback with the 2.4-litre, 178bhp Euro 5 diesel engine, which costs from £28,653. For your money, you get a fair amount of kit as standard, including heated front seats – which are a welcome feature in the chilly winter temperatures – a 6.1-inch touchscreen infotainment system that incorporates DAB radio and satellite navigation, as well as a very handy rear parking camera that certainly comes in handy in a car of this size.

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WANTED

ALL MILITARIA ITEMS
FROM WARS WANTED BY
COLLECTOR

Swords, medals, helmets etc,
single or full items.

German, Japanese, British.

Will collect.

Cash paid

07511 500337.

AUTO MEMORABILIA
WANTED

SHELL, ESSO,

CASTROL ETC

ALSO

GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs,

Petrol Cans,

Old Jugs,

Classic Car Parts,
Bikes and Motorbikes.

Anything old.

**** TOP PRICES PAID ****

01384 836219/07891 713547
SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus
any old Crash magazines wanted,
also any old your Sinclair maga-
zines. 01902 892918.

**kitchens &
bathrooms**

NEFF BUILT IN ELECTRIC Oven,
stainless steel, 3 years old, very
clean, genuine reason, must
collect, £90 ono. 01902 362965.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

**specialists at
your service**

aerials

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
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01543 430995 • 01922 716029

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with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
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Brought to you by **Express & Star**

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ALARMS**

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!

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building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

Brickwork Maintenance

Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick
Replacement, Repointing, Cleaning etc. CRB,
C&G, Insured, Free Quotes.

Lee

0789 147 5718 or 0121 602 5313
lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

**carpet & upholstery
cleaning**

**A BRILLIANT
FOR YOUR
CARPETS & SUITES**
Special offers July/August
OAP discounts.
Call Steve on
04796 922324

**electrical
services**

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Reviews/sockets/wire boards etc.
All domestic and commercial work.
07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY
AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

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with the service I get
from my Express &
Star Classified Sales
Representatives and
would recommend
them to anyone! They
have done a very
professional job with
my website so I get
online enquiries as
well now."

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Portway Fencing

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**gardening
services**

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without

being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

**ABSOLUTELY
ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES
AND SHEDS RUBBISH
REMOVED WASTE LICENCE**
01384 486456 / 07711661135

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**painters /
decorators**

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services.** Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

**KINGSWINFORD
REMOVALS
AND HOUSE
CLEARANCES**
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we
take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN: Man with a large van.
No job too small, no distance too
far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly
service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2
8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

**6
Property**

**accommodation
to let**

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accom-
modation Agencies Act 1953, for an
Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments/contracts.

FLAT TO LET

WEDNESFIELD

Fully furnished, refurbished to
high standard, with off road
parking, would suit working

gent, age 45+.

£85pw.

01902 304258.

SMALL FLAT fully equipped, refur-
bished, suit mature male. £95pw +
some services. 07715 603357.

THREE BEDROOM Finchfield, CH,
garage space, modernised. Two
toilets, £60 pcm. 01902 335683.

**overseas
property**

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
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properties wanted

**FAST CASH
FOR YOUR PROPERTY**

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
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CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

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Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price
EVERY TIME!**

FAST 4 Your House CASH

You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES
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- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

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01384 500 500 **30
yrs**

www.black-country-homes.co.uk * subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

mobile homes

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

**RESIDENTIAL RETIREMENT
SITE**

Knowlesands, Bridgnorth.

Atlas 39ft, 2 bedroom.

1 en suite.

Beautiful views across River
Severn Valley and Severn

Valley Railway runs at rear of
site.

For inquires call
07976 090870.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

**4
Pets &
Animals**

**equestrian
corner**

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation.

pets corner

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE
WONDERFUL PETS**
All neutered, inoculated
and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

MULTICROSS PUPPIES 2 girls, 2
boys, various colours, £75.
07722 663466.

SPRINGER SPANIEL puppies,
ready now, 2 dogs, 1 bitch, £300.
07507 753350

**5
Business &
Farming**

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering into any
obligations.

**7
Jobs**

hair & beauty

EXPERIENCED BARBER required
full time for busy salon in Wordsley.
Call 07969 355553.

CONTINU PLUS ACADEMY
Finepoint Way, Kiddleminster, Worcestershire. DY11 7FB

**Learning Coach/Outdoor Education
Learning Coach**
Scale 2, 37 hours/wk, term time only

We are seeking a Learning Coach and an Outdoor Education
Learning Coach to support our school teaching team. As well
as being a vital part of our onsite team you will assist with
the successful delivery of our extensive outdoor education
programme. The successful applicant will need to be
determined, resilient, roundly positive and passionate
about their and our educational ethos. Our team is made up
of inspirational and energetic individuals who have strong
moral integrity.

For the position of outdoor education learning coach, experience
of adventurous sporting activities coupled with a passion for the
great outdoors and a commitment to disadvantaged students
is a prerequisite for this position. Although the right candidate
need not have specific outdoor qualifications you must be willing
to spend part of the week in offsite provision and be committed
to completing outdoor education qualifications as required. As
a member of the Learning Coach team you will be required to
support with learning across the school curriculum.

To learn more visit **www.continuplus.org.uk** or contact
Mrs Amy Stokes on **01562 822463** as686@cpa.worcs.sch.uk
Closing date: 18th August 2017

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT & 30 NOV. 1 DEC.
STOKE: 2-3 SEPT. **TELFORD:** 23-24 OCT.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.

**Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
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HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

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**Come play
with ours**

Due to the continued expansion of the Nation's favourite and
fastest growing Used Car Dealer Group; Imperial Cars will be
holding a recruitment day for Workshop Technicians, Aftersales
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9th August 2017 at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley
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If you want to move forward with your career and join a rapidly
expanding company that can offer you world class training,
industry leading remuneration packages, and genuine
opportunities for career progression, why not come and visit us
at our Recruitment Event where you can meet our team.

If this appeals to you then apply now to arrange an interview at
our Recruitment Event on the 9th August. Visit our website
imperialcars.co.uk and click on the banner at the top of the
home page.

Halesowen
Technicians | Aftersales | Service | Sales

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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



FORD FIESTA 1.25 PETROL
September 2014.
5 door.
Deep Impact Blue.
9,000 miles. FSH.
Air Con. Heated windscreens.
Spare tyre.
Manufacturers warranty to Sept.
£7,250.
07837 964826.



FORD FIESTA
TITANIUM 95
1400, 5Dr hatchback, grey metallic, 2010, MoT January 2018, fsh, excellent condition, one previous keeper, extras, alloys, CD, mats, etc.
£4,495 ono.
07739 267589.

IMMACULATE

FORD FIESTA ZETEC
65 reg, 1 owner, 8,000 miles, 5dr, 1.25, bluetooth dab radio, all electrics, alloys, non smoker, showroom condition,
£6,200.
07404 661710.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FOCUS ZETEC
2009, 1.6, black, 5 door, hatchback, 67,000 miles, new shape, alloy wheels, air con, electrics, alarm.
£2,795.
07733 304915.



FORD FUSION ZETEC
2012, 1.4 5dr, excellent condition, 7 months MoT, 2 owners from new, only 39,000 miles, CD player, FSH.
£3,850.
07754 703586.



FORD MONDEO EDGE ESTATE TDCI
2009, black, ABS, 1753cc, 70,000 miles, 10 months MoT, tinted windows, new cam belt, fsh, two owners, very good condition.
£2,950
01562 632893.



MINI COOPER
2009, 1.6, 2 owners, 85,000 miles, fsh, radio CD, a/c, Bluetooth, super condition.
£3,995.
01902 850622.

MUST BE SEEN

NISSAN NOTE SE
Grey, 07 reg, 12 months MoT, 37,000 miles from new.
First to see will buy.
£1,695 ono.
07948 146611.

SPORTY MODEL

NISSAN Z350
Automatic
Gun metal grey with matching red leather.
2003
Import model
Usual refinements, 90k miles, FSH, excellent condition.
£4,999 ono.
May part ex.
07836 204450.
deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk



PEUGEOT 308 SPORTIUM
1.6. 5 door. 2011 (11).
Two owners from new.
FSH (74,000 miles).
Full MoT. Alloys.
A/C. Immaculate throughout.
£2,995.
07970 705466.

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM 1.2
2010, MoT,
low mileage,
AC, alloy wheels,
EW, immaculate,
economical.
£2,900 ono
07754 557861.



VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4SRI
3dr, white, 42,000 miles, usual SRI refinements, fsh, MoT June 2018, lady owner, new car, reason for sale,
£4,500 ono.
07855 370328.



VW FOX
2007, 1.4, Petrol,
84,000 miles, FSH,
One Previous Owner,
Electric Windows, A/C,
Superb Condition.
£1,675 ono
07977 939497.



VW JETTA 1.6 FSI S
Petrol, 2009, one owner, 63,000 miles, full VW service history, alloys, a/c, radio/CD, 2 keys, super condition.
£3,295 ono.
07960 995748.

cars under £1500

BMW 318SE AUTO
52 Reg.,
101k, fsh,
black,
black leather interior,
engine fault,
12 months MoT.
£650.
07775 747929.



CAMPUS CLIO
2006, 45,000 miles, 2 Door, MoT until October, 1000cc, good runner, paintwork needs some TLC.
£600 ono
Call 07709 539798

IDEAL FIRST CAR

CITROEN SAXO DESIRE
1.1, 52 plate.
Genuine 29,000 miles.
One lady owner from new, FSH, MoT till September 2017, central locking, sunroof, electric front windows.
Good clean condition.
£750.
07866 026935.



FORD KA
2002, 72,780 Miles, Blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint,
central locking, pas
£450.00 ono
01902 337371

BARGAIN

FORD MONDEO
1800 PETROL
2007 plate, Ten months MoT,
CL, PAS.
Service history.
£675.
07572 687123.

BARGAIN

KIA CARENS 1991CC
1991cc, diesel, MoT
December, alloys, clean car,
£400 ono.
01902 495079.



MERCEDES CLK320 AUTO SPORT COUPE
1998,
good condition,
leather trim, average miles.
MoT, drives nicely.
£945 ono.
07462 766144.



PEUGEOT 206
2003, 75,382 Miles, Blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas
£600.00 ono
01902 337371



RENAULT CLIO
Great condition, 2004, 67,800 miles, black, alloys, sunroof and 2 keys. Long MOT and service history and 2 previous lady owners. Perfect first car!
£1,150 ono
07976667465

BARGAIN

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4
W Reg., silver,
MoT to November,
alloys,
needs slight attention but drives well.
Good condition.
£290 or very near offer.
07498 288103.

BARGAIN

ROVER 25
02 plate
12 months MoT,
80,000 miles
Very good condition
2 owners from new
£575 ono.
07954 437625.



VAUXHALL ACTIVE MARIVA
2006, 83,000 Miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT
£1,300 ono
07984518468

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4
2008, MoT May 2018,
two former keepers.
£1,450. o.n.o.
07923 132859.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT 350, 2007, tail lift Luton, 70,000 miles, SH, new MoT, £5,500. 07495 172252.
FORD TRANSIT 350 pickup, 2004, 13ft body, tail lift, new MoT, £2,495. 07496 172252.

FORD TRANSIT PICKUP
K reg, new tyres, new clutch, seven months MoT, very good runner,
£1,200 ono.
07594 269837.

motorbikes

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA VFR 800
2000, Anniversary Model, many extras including stainless exhaust, 27,000 miles, MoT to October, very good condition.
£2,100
or very near offer.
01952 813039.
SUZUKI GSX650F
2010, black with fitted extras, 11,000 miles, very good condition,
£3,195 ono.
01384 237160 or 07944 242262.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397.
DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

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A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA, and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
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07972 169554
anytime

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES
Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers.
BEST PRICES.
Wolves Hire
01902 746723
Tettenhall Road, WV6 0LE

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

ANTONY BENJAMIN EVANS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Peacock Cottage 2 Kinvet Street Wordsley Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5AA, who died on 02/02/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/10/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WALL JAMES CHAPPELL SOLICITORS
15-23 Hagley Road Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1QW
T507348

DENIS ALBERT ETHERIDGE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 28 Lighthoods Road Pedmore Stourbridge DY9 0TR, who died on 31/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/10/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aston 650 Aston West Midlands B4 7DQ
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD (Ref: SF/4045613/Denny)
T507176

ROY FREDERICK DENNY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 4 Hamoch Close Brierley Hill DY5 3RP, who died on 14/04/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 06/10/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aston 650 Aston West Midlands B4 7DQ
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD (Ref: SF/4045613/Denny)
T507176

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for a Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act) / Club Premises Certificate (Section 71 of the Act).

Name of applicant or Club: Harriet Foster, The Chemistry Cafe, 50-51 High Street, Stourbridge DY8 1DE.
Statement of Relevant Licensable Activities or Relevant Qualifying Club Activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises.

Supply of Alcohol (on premises) Mon - Sun 11:00 - 23:00

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see below) between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An on-line summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between:

21 July 2017 and 17 August 2017

to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

10 Personals

personal

A LOVING, GENUINE, CARING

easy going man 61 years old

WLTM person for Relationship.

Box Number P20869,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

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FEMALE 53

Nice, fun, chatty with GSOH, looking for female Friends for girly nights and days out, meals,

dancing etc.

Stourbridge, Brierley hill and surrounding areas.

Box Number P20872 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

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Peter Boland and his successful Alcobendas youth team in his adopted home of Spain



Peter with team-mates during his last game for the Alcobendas first team



Peter is a now passing on his experience of the game



Peter with a team-mate from the veteran's XV

Black Country man has Spain hooked on rugby

IN the shadow of legendary football club Real Madrid, one Black Country man is helping to popularise a different sport in Spain's capital.

Football reigns as the national sport in Spain but rugby is gaining a foothold thanks to the help of Wolverhampton-born Peter Boland, who has called the country home for half his life.

The 53-year-old's influence on the game of rugby in his adopted home has seen him become recognised as one of the top 50 most influential people in the sport in the country.

Boland, who was born in Wolverhampton and went to school in Wednesfield, is head coach of a junior side at Alcobendas Rugby, based in Madrid, and has turned them into Spanish champions.

His knowledge of the game, which he picked up in the Black Country, is regarded so highly in Spain he has been asked to advise the Spanish Rugby Union about how to grow the sport nationally.

Influential

Remarkably, Boland was playing in Spain's top rugby division up until he was 48 which earned him applause.

He has been recognised by Spanish rugby magazine 'From 22' who paid tribute to him and ranked him as the 46th most influential rugby person in the country.

Boland, who lives with his Spanish wife and three children, called it 'flattering' to have been featured in the publication.

He said: "I only got involved in Spanish rugby around 11 years ago. For the magazine to place me in the top 50 contributors to the sport, because of my playing and coaching and contribution, it has given

SPORTING FEATURE

By Jamie Brassington

"They said they had a veterans team, but I said I wanted to play again. I played in the top Spanish divisions until I was 48."

me huge satisfaction and is very flattering."

Boland got into rugby during his time at Ward's Bridge Secondary School, back in Wednesfield, thanks to the influence of his teachers.

He played for his school team before turning out to represent Staffordshire, and during his time at Leeds University – where he studied a degree in modern languages in French and Spanish – he played for Walsall.

His university course saw him spend time in Spain and France. After graduating he went into the marketing industry, where he lived between London and Madrid.

Through work, he moved to Spain in 1995 where he met his wife and built his life.

Boland lives around 30 miles outside Madrid, but the club that he coaches at, Alcobendas, and his work, are based in the capital.

His working life put a hold on his playing career in 1995 and he didn't start turning out again until 2006.

"But at the ripe old age of 42 I turned up to Alco-

bendas saying I wanted to play again," said Boland. "They said they had a veterans team, but I said I wanted to play again. I played in the top Spanish divisions until I was 48.

"That put me on the (rugby) scene. I was recognised as a Brit who had integrated into Spanish life and started playing the highest level of rugby at 42." After retiring from the first team, Boland turned to coaching a youth team at the club. His side, who were at under-12 level at the time, went on to beat London Irish during a friendly match – a result that surprised the opposition.

But Boland, whose 13-year-old son plays junior rugby for the club, has not completely hung up his boots.

He still plays at veterans level and represents the Spanish veterans side. In his younger days he used to play as a prop, but he moved to a hooker following advice from his former coaches.

University

He is also providing a helping hand to the ruling body.

"Last year the Spanish Rugby Union had asked for advice, I work professionally in marketing and I teach at a university here," added Boland.

"For the last eight months, I have been advising Spanish rugby to build a strategic plan to build up rugby in Spain."

But rugby is still a small sport in Spain?

"That is changing," he said.

"What happens in Britain, most schools play rugby and/or football. But it is not in the curriculum in Spain and it is down to clubs to get kids involved."

"But rugby is growing by 20 per cent a year in Spain, there are now around 50,000 registered players."

Himley to shine a light on proceedings

HIMLEY are to further enhance their reputation as one of the leading lights on the club cricket scene. The Stourbridge Road club are set to break new ground by hosting a Birmingham League clash under floodlights.

The club's second XI will entertain Halesowen in a Premier Division Two game on Saturday, August 26, starting at 3pm.

First team skipper Greg Wright, one of the leading lights behind the club's Black Country T20 spectacular, said: "As a club we are proud to be staging the game and pleased to be pushing the boundaries for club cricket."

"We put the idea to the Birmingham League and they were prepared to go with it. It will be interesting to see the contrast between batting first and then batting under lights in the longer format of the game."

The Black Country T20 competition will see Himley, Brewood, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Halesowen and a Staffs Clubs select XI do battle from August 21-26. More floodlit action follows on August 27 when four sides compete in finals day of the NatWest Under-19s Staffs Club T20.

Players in swing for golf day fundraiser

MORE than 80 golfers took to the fairways to a building society raised more than £5,500 for a local health and wellbeing charity.

The West Brom staged its annual sporting fundraiser at The Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wombourne, in aid of its nominated charity, the Kaleidoscope Plus Group.

Business partners, suppliers and staff joined forces to form 20 teams who did battle in a stableford competition, won by insurance broker AJ Gallagher. There were nearest the pin and longest drive challenges, while a raffle was also held to raise additional funds.

The West Brom's David Taylor, who helped to organise the event, said: "Our golf day is always very popular and the number of entrants is growing every year. All the players enjoyed themselves and to raise £5,500 for the Kaleidoscope Plus Group was a great effort from everyone who took part."

Monica Shafaq, Kaleidoscope's chief executive, said: "The golf day represents a terrific start to our partnership with the West Brom."

Shelley shows class to increase his lead

ANOTHER four race wins ensured Burntwood race ace Lloyd Shelley walked away from Darley Moor with a second clean sweep.

Shelley – who has now won a staggering eight straight races at the last two meetings – increased his lead in two classes at the Derbyshire circuit.

The meeting included some fantastic battles out on track throughout the 23 race programme, none more so than the duels between Shelley in the two Formula 600 and Sound of Thunder class races against Nottingham's Tom Fisher. The results leave Shelley on 54 points in both classes, 12 points ahead of Steven Procter in the Formula 600 and 24 in front of Jamie Medhurst in the Sound of Thunder.

Anthony Eades and his Wolverhampton passenger Keith Box took the Open Sidecar honours on each occasion, recording two overall fifth places. The results sees the pair maintain their class lead on 54 points, with Brian Wilson and Mike Fairhurst second (32) and Ray Thomas and Neil Aslaksen (21) third. Dudley's Mark Cockerton is second in the Classic 350 class.



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Greenwood injury mars Cradley night

CRADLEY finished with a flourish to see off Stoke 54-35 on Monday, but ended the night with concerns over the fitness of Dan Greenwood.

Number three Greenwood fell in heat 12 at Monmore with the red lights already on for a previous incident, hurting his left shoulder which contains a metal plate from a past injury.

It marred a stellar show from the Motor Market Heathens, who were pushed all the way until a trio of 5-1s saw them gallop away. Danny Ayres bagged a five-ride full maximum with skipper Tom Perry remaining unbeaten by an opponent.

Ayres was within a second of the National League track record in a consummate victory before Conor Dwyer led a second 3-3. Greenwood slipped out of contention on turn two of heat three having ran very wide while Tony Atkin edged Stoke ahead. Perry led another 3-3, matched by Mitchell Davey in heat five.

Paul Burnett was excluded for running Luke Harris into the fence in heat six. With Ayres in front in the re-run, Heathens were on a 5-1 until Harris hit the fence on turn four.

The hosts moved in front when Perry roared away and Dwyer passed David Wallinger for a 4-2. A maximum pushed Cradley five ahead with Greenwood leading home Lawlor. Ayres' third win extended the gap. Perry made in three out of three then Cradley's Ayres and Perry cruised in heats 13 and 15, Lawlor and Dwyer emulating them in between.

Hard-hitting from Bradley helps take Stour to fourth

HOSTING Nuneaton at the War Memorial Ground, Stourbridge recouped much needed points after losing two matches on the trot.

Put into bat Stour posted their highest score of the season - 294 for 4 off 55 overs. Foundations for a late onslaught were laid by Juhar Johal (64) and Zain Ul Hassan. They took the score from 51 to 149 for three.

Hard hitting came from Matt Bradley who with Ul Hassan put on 81 off 48 balls. Ul Hassan was caught off Bradley Gledhill for 71 in the 51st over. Bradley scored his first hundred of the season off mere 42 balls, his ton included 10 sixes and four boundaries.

Nuneaton, at the bottom of Division Three of the Birmingham and District League, made a solid start. The first wicket of David Colkin fell on 69 in the 17th over caught in the gully off Jitesh Jivan-Patel. By the 27th over Stour had captured four wickets for 85 runs. Six overs were lost due to rain with 16 overs remaining. The winning draw pulled Stour into fourth position in division 3, 29 points behind the leaders Lichfield.

Right royal do at tennis club doubles



Finalists Graham Whyley and Joan Bowles, left, and Shaun Ryder and Annabel Kuligowski

IN 1977, to celebrate the Queens Silver Jubilee, Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club started a mixed competition, run as a handicap tournament.

Muriel and Ted Wright donated original silver salvers for the tournament 40 years ago and ever since the competition, held around Wimbledon time, has seen the entry fee increase by only a penny per year.

This year's entry was therefore 40p and it was special since it has been 40 years since the queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee.

Tournament organiser John Cutler said "The

spirit of the tournament lives on. With plenty of Union Jacks flying, the tournament was held in good weather.

"All Players played in a variety of red, white, and blue outfits."

The final was contested between Shaun Ryder and Annabel Kuligowski versus Graham Whyley and Joan Bowles.

Shaun and Annabel took the 2017 title and, after a toast to the Queen and presentation of trophies, a traditional afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Tank blasts way to his second win

RYAN Aston recorded a second successive victory with a well-earned points win over Cristian Hoskin-Gomez at the top of BCB Promotions' show on Sunday afternoon.

"Sunday Best" took place the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill and featured a host of Black Country boxers.

Aston, topping the bill, took on the tough Plymouth man for the second time and, again, came out on top. It was an entertaining affair with Hoskin-Gomez taking the fight to 'Tank'.

The Dudley middleweight didn't drop a round to record a 59-55 points win but was docked a point when referee Shaun Messer penalised him for holding.

Also on the card, Kingswinford's Danny Ball enjoyed a perfect start to his professional career. The super welterweight, whose brother Jamie was a Midlands Area Champion, stopped his Czech opponent inside the first round.

Martin Karbhel was hurt by a left hook to the body and a flurry of shots put him on the canvass. He failed to beat the count much to the delight of Ball's army of supporters.

Coseley's Tommy Ghent made a welcome return to the ring after four years! and looked, at times, as if he'd never been away. The 24 year-old welterweight recorded a 40-36 points shut-out win against tough Bulgarian Teodor Nikolov. Old Hill's Manny Zaber was back in action after four months on the sidelines to record a 39-37 victory over Bristol's Harvey Hemsley.

BEN BASQUES IN CYCLE GLORY

A TEENAGE cycling ace has signalled a warning of his considerable potential by winning one of the most prestigious junior races on the planet.

Wordsley's Ben Healy has only been competing on open roads for a few months and has spent much of the season juggling his passion for pedalling with revision for his GCSE exams.

But that has not stopped him clocking up no fewer than eight victories with his latest triumph one which has made the rest of the cycling world stand up and take note.

Healy, who races for the Oxford-based Zappi team, finished top of the general classification at the Junior Tour of the Basque Country, a five-day stage race which includes a host of top professionals among its former winners.

"We knew Ben was doing well and knew he had good form but even I have to admit it came as a big surprise to see him win," said delighted dad Brian.

Proud

"The Junior Tour of the Basque Country is a very tough race which features the best young riders in the world. For Ben to win it is a tremendous achievement. We are very proud of him."

Healy's success was made all the more impressive by the fact he has also had to deal with setbacks and the increased pressure of exams during his standout season.

The 16-year-old was dropped from British Cycling's Olympic Mountain Biking Programme last Christmas and looked likely to have a relatively quiet year on the road.

But he picked up notable early season wins at Stourport Circuit events, before taking a stunning victory at the Halesowen Cycling Club road race in May, riding away from more experienced riders. His performances have been enough to see him move from a third to first category rider in the space of just a few months.



Ben Healy finished top of the general classification in the Junior Tour of Spain's Basque region

Evenly matched in chess club derby

THE annual post-season friendly Tony Evers match against Halesowen was held on July 20 at the Stourbridge institute. It was a ten board match and on paper it looked like it would be a fairly even match, and so it was. Stourbridge out graded their opponents on the lower boards but Halesowen looked better on the higher. It was a 5-5 draw.

After three rounds of Stourbridge Summer tournament, Richard Wilkinson is the sole leader on three out of three after a fine win against higher graded Julie Wilson. Martin Berridge had to take a half point bye and is in second place on 2½. John Foxall, Chris Cox and Tony Taylor all won their third round games. Two more to play.

Stourbridge chess club's Martin Berridge and former members Jet Ajmal and Chris Wilkinson all represented Birmingham, in the recent 23rd ICCD European Deaf Club Chess Championship in Sweden. Birmingham finished fifth out of 14 team. Jet scored four out of seven, Martin 3.5 out of seven and Chris two out of four.

Old Halesonians get chance for revenge

OLD Halesonians face their old foes in the North Midlands Cup.

Bournville secured the county cup on the more tries rule after the sides were level at 25-25 in May's final at Dudley Kingswinford. They begin their defence with a re-run of last season's final in next season's quarter-finals and will have home advantage on the weekend of either August 26 or October 7.

In one of two preliminary rounds, Dudley Kingswinford travel to Hereford with the winners facing either Worcester Wanderers or Bromsgrove.

Cape Hill were drawn away to Birmingham & Solihull in the first round.



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WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE PRESENTS

BRASSED OFF

BY PAUL ALLEN
AND MARK HERMAN

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CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
BRASS BAND



STARRING
JEFFREY HOLLAND
AS DANNY

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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre is producing its first show in almost 40 years. Well known for hosting some of the biggest shows in theatre, The Grand is now making one of its own, bringing **BRASSED OFF** to the stage for 13 performances from Wednesday 23 August – Saturday 2 September.

Almost a year in the making and featuring a cast of over 60 actors and musicians, this ambitious project marks the beginning of a new creative era for the Grand. With opening night just a few weeks away, read the inside story from the voices that are making it happen.

THE PLAY

Based on a true story and adapted from the 1996 film starring Ewan McGregor, **BRASSED OFF** is a funny and life-affirming tale of community spirit and triumph in the face of adversity.

It's 1992, and Danny's lifelong ambition to lead the Grimley Colliery Band to the National Brass Band Competition at the Royal Albert Hall looks like it might finally happen. But as Grimley Pit faces closure, the future looks bleak as the town is thrown into conflict.

Flugelhorn player Gloria arrives in town bringing with her a renewed sense of hope and a touch of romance, but no-one knows who she's really playing for ...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ADRIAN JACKSON

Following last summer's £1.2 million refurbishment, Adrian is turning his attention to producing and building a new and exciting future for the Grand on stage.

"I think it's really important for the Grand to produce. We've been bringing the best shows to the Midlands for many years – that's great but to actually create our own work for the people of Wolverhampton and beyond is terrific."

Adrian was keen to involve the local community in this production, casting local actors and musicians to play alongside household names including Jeffrey Holland, giving the production a real home grown feel.



PRODUCER & PROGRAMME MANAGER

TIM COLEGATE

From the day plans for **BRASSED OFF** were announced Tim has been hard at work keeping the project on track, from organising auditions to scheduling rehearsals, it's not been your average nine to five job, "There have been lots of aspects for me to look after and that's kept things interesting! It's great to see it all coming together now, nine months of emails and paperwork are all becoming real things. It's an extremely exciting time."



THE SCRIPT

WRITTEN BY PAUL ALLEN, ADAPTED FROM THE SCREENPLAY BY MARK HERMAN

Paul Allen partnered with the film's screenplay writer Mark Herman to adapt **BRASSED OFF** for the stage at the end of the 1990s. Ever since then he's seen the show go from success to success and is delighted that the Grand have chosen the play for their return to producing, he thinks audiences here are going to experience something very special, "The show has been successful and toured almost from the beginning... but in the more industrial regions where there have been strong mining links, such as the West Midlands where we find ourselves now, you get a very passionate response from the audience and lovely reactions."



#MADEINWOLVERHAMPTON #BRASSEDOFFWLW

THE MA BRAS OFF

VICTORY
To The
Miners

Ash Matthews (centre) who plays **BRASSED OFF**'s narrator Shane, alongside members of the Community Ensemble

KING OF BRASSED OFF

DIRECTOR

GARETH TUDOR PRICE

Enjoying a highly successful career directing at venues throughout the country, Gareth is tasked with bringing **BRASSED OFF's** script to life on stage, his passion for the play is evident, "I think what will make the production for me is the raw emotion of the story, the families and individual stories plus the power of a full brass band playing some fantastic music live on stage."

He's confident that his cast are ready to rise to the challenge, "What I love about theatre is that every live performance is different ... there's scope for a different reaction every night, and in *Brassed Off*, which is a highly emotional piece we should achieve that ... we've got a terrific cast to bring it to life."



SET & COSTUMES

JOHN BROOKING

With the director bringing the action to life, designer John is taking on the challenge of transforming the Grand's 123 year old stage into an authentic mining town. "My design needs to give the director a versatile space he could use for different locations but mainly to establish the terraces of a northern mining town. The dominant feature of the set is the colliery, the huge wheel is at the centre of the design."

As well as designing a set capable of housing a cast of over 60 actors and musicians, John is also responsible for finding costumes for each of them. Staying true to the era of the play, he has been on the hunt for authentic clothing from the 1990s, "You have to find costumes from the period which can now be collectible. You find as a designer you have to be a bit of a squirrel and collect things up! The problem you then have is having the perfect pair of size 5 shoes and then finding your actor is a size 4!"

Brassed Off Set Model - Design by John Brooking



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON BRASS BAND

Featuring some of Britain's finest brass band music, including *Death Or Glory*, *Jerusalem*, *William Tell Overture*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and *Danny Boy*, the Grand wanted to find a local band to step into the shoes of the cash strapped Grimley Colliery Band and perform the play's score live on stage. When they met with the City of Wolverhampton Brass Band everything seemed to fit perfectly.

Founded in 1972 and initially based at Wolverhampton Grammar school the only instruments the band had in their early days were those that belonged to its own members. So, they're no strangers to the hardships faced by the band they have been cast to play.

Now enjoying playing with the band in much happier times, veteran band member Rachael Dickens tells of the band's excitement at being involved in the play.

"As a band we're delighted to be performing on stage at the Grand, this is something we have never done before so it's a great experience that everyone is looking forward to. We're used to performing in front of audiences but never as part of a cast for a play so this is something new and exciting for us."



Members of the City of Wolverhampton Brass Band

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

ANTHONY ASTON

Many of **BRASSED OFF's** key technical roles are being filled by Grand Theatre staff, including Lighting Designer Anthony Aston, "As a receiving theatre we usually make other people's lighting work but now we're getting to work on our own ideas. It's a great challenge."

Adrian Jackson recognises the excitement these opportunities have generated among his colleagues, "It gives people here the chance to fully utilise their skills and there has been a definite excitement throughout the whole organisation at the thought of producing what will be a landmark production in the history of the Grand Theatre."



#MADEINWOLVERHAMPTON #BRASSEDOFFWLTV

THE MAKING OF **BRASSED OFF**

THE ACTORS

To complement its professional creative and acting team, **BRASSED OFF** will feature actors from the local community, including 4 cast in principal roles and an ensemble of over 20.

Jeffrey Holland, Ash Matthews and Miriam Grace Edwards play three of **BRASSED OFF**'s central characters.

THE STAR **JEFFREY HOLLAND**

Jeffrey Holland is a long-time favourite of Grand Theatre audiences and plays curmudgeonly band leader Danny. Known for his comedy roles, Danny is a departure for Jeffrey, "It's nice for me to play Danny ... it's a very serious part and he's a very serious character.

His brass band is his life. I like to play a straight role when I get the opportunity. I'm known for my smile but I can't smile as Danny because he's a bit po-faced. I'll save the smile for the curtain call."

Keeping a straight face isn't the only challenge that Jeffrey will face in the role, how does he feel about conducting a live band? "I'm very excited ... to be conducting a brass band because I've never done that before. You always stand and conduct records at home and you think you can do it, but it's different when it's the real thing. I've got that pressure to look forward to!"

THE NEWCOMER **ASH MATTHEWS**

BRASSED OFF is giving a big break to young actor Ash Matthews, fresh from drama school he's taking on the role of Shane, the play's narrator, and Danny's grandson.

"Shane is such an interesting character and with **Brassed Off** there's so many different emotions you can explore - it's actually very funny but there are also moments of extreme sadness. People say it's such a special show to be part of anyway but this production will be moreso, with the community aspect and with how much this will mean to the Theatre and local people."

LEADING ACTRESS **MIRIAM GRACE EDWARDS**

Birmingham based professional actress Miriam plays Sandra, Shane's mom and Danny's daughter-in-law and a housewife on the brink of despair, struggling to keep her family together as her husband faces redundancy. Although telling the story of pit closures over twenty years ago she thinks **BRASSED OFF**'s themes are still relevant to today's audiences, "Oh absolutely, it was a huge thing that happened and really did change the shape of our country ... this was such an important thing to so many people, it was their livelihood and their work and I think it's something that we still see now, with the steel industry or ... factories closing down."

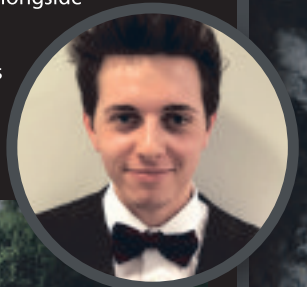
COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE ACTOR

JAMES CHAPLAIN

When 19 year old James heard the Grand were looking for local actors to join the cast of **BRASSED OFF** he didn't have far to walk to the audition, having worked as a Front of House Assistant there for the last two years. Having realised a love for acting while at school he knew it was an opportunity he couldn't pass up, "I spend a lot of time at the Theatre and this was a massive opportunity to make an appearance on the stage having spent so much time on the other side of it."

After a successful audition, James was selected for one of the community ensemble roles alongside two other Grand Theatre colleagues, Rachel Martin and Joy Davis. So, are there any nerves now the production is only weeks away?

"A few, but I'm really looking forward to it. It's going to be a great insight into the life of a professional actor and I feel very privileged that I'm getting to work alongside well-respected actors, it's a huge honour."



Grand Theatre staff Rachel Martin, James Chaplain and Joy Davis



Actors from the community Tim Jones (left) and Greg Yates (right) who play miners Harry and Jim

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